

MINUTES
OF THE
109th Annual Session of the
TENNESSEE RIVER ASSOCIATION
of
Free Will Baptists
Convened with
Murphy's Chapel Church
Friday, September 18, 1987

The next association will convene with
Piney Grove
on Friday before the third Sunday in
September, 1988 at 10:30 a.m.

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PLACING OF THE FIFTH SUNDAY MEETINGS

November 1987	Scotts Chapel
January 1988	Midway
May 1988	Bumpas Creek
July 1988	Piney Grove

CHURCH CLERKS AND THEIR ADDRESSES

Adamsville	Pam Flynn Rt. 2, Box 215, Adamsville, TN 38310
Antioch	Lina Montgomery Rt. 12, Box 437, Florence, AL 35630
Bumpas Creek	Amanda Patterson Rt. 1, Box 481, Waterloo, AL 35677
Meeks Grove	Betty Milford Rt. 1, Box 183A, Stantonville, TN 38379
Midway	Susie Hall Rt. 1, Box 292, Russellville, AL 35653
Mt. Olive	Pauline Jones Rt. 1, Waterloo, AL 35677
Murphy's Chapel	David Montgomery Rt. 12, Box 335, Florence, AL 35630
New Chapel	Deanna Mims Rt. 1, Box 377A, Counce, TN 38326
New Pleasant Grove	Sue Franks Rt. 7, Box 77D, Savannah, TN 38372
Piney Grove	Roger Stults Box 108A, Cypress Inn, TN 38452
Posey Chapel	Willie Posey Rt. 3, Cherokee, AL
Rayborn Chapel	Edgar Melson Rt. 2, Box 102, Collinwood, TN 38450
Scotts Chapel	Judy Harper Rt. 1, Box 144, Iron City, TN 38463
Shady Grove	Edward Franks Olive Hill, TN 38475
Solitude	Betty Harville Rt. 2, Box 421, Adamsville, TN 38310
Whites Creek	Brenda Lambert Rt. 1, Box 144A, Savannah, TN 38372

ORDAINED MINISTERS, THEIR ADDRESSES AND PHONE NUMBERS

Rev. Emerald Bailey	Rt. 1, Iron City, TN 38463 Phone (615) 724-4378
Rev. John E. Banks	Rt. 1, Box 116, Cypress Inn, TN 38452 Phone (615) 724-7156
Rev. Benton Brown	Rt. 2, Box 85D, Savannah, TN 38372 Phone (901) 925-9313
Rev. Carl Creasy	Rt. 12, Box 451, Florence, AL 35630 Phone (205) 766-5958
Rev. Lige Dickey	Rt. 1, Cypress Inn, TN 38452 Phone (615) 724-4809
Rev. Earl Dixon	Rt. 14, Box 285, Florence, AL 35630 Phone (205) 764-0558
Rev. Grant Endicott	Rt. 4, Box 204, Florence, AL 35630 Phone (205) 767-1069
Rev. V.H. Gean	Rt. 14, Box 309, Florence, AL 35630 Phone (205) 766-3896
Rev. Vernon Gober	Rt. 2, Box 374, Adamsville, TN 38310 Phone (901) 632-4228
Rev. J.B. Harper	Rt. 1, Box 105, Cypress Inn, TN 38452 Phone (615) 724-4594
Rev. Allen Jones	
Rev. Charles Linam	Rt. 7, Box 110, Savannah, TN 38372 Phone (901) 925-2923
Rev. Virgil Moore	Rt. 1, Box 292, Morris Chapel, TN 38361 Phone (901) 632-3256
Rev. Marvin Morrow	Rt. 1, Box 71A, Cypress Inn, TN 38452 Phone (615) 724-9663
Rev. Earl Rich	Rt. 1, Box 81A, Cypress Inn, TN 38452 Phone (615) 724-9654
Rev. Jimmy Shields	Rt. 12, Box 110C, Florence, AL 35630 Phone (205) 766-6926
Rev. Dalton Skaggs	Rt. 1, Box 13A, Collinwood, TN 38450 Phone (615) 724-9622
Rev. Edward Smith	Rt. 1, Box 163, Stantonville, TN 38379 Phone (901) 632-4413
Rev. Ealis Stephens	Rt. 4, Savannah, TN 38372 Phone (901) 925-3881
Rev. Jerry Strickland	Rt. 4, Box 137, Moulton, AL 35650 Phone (205) 974-2967
Rev. Nick White	101 Harbert Dr., Savannah, TN 38372 Phone (901) 925-4544
Rev. L.L. Wilson	Rt. 2, Old Shiloh Rd., Adamsville, TN 38310 Phone (901) 632-1146

CHURCH PASTORS

Adamsville	Rev. L. L. Wilson
Antioch	Rev. Virgil Gean
Bumpus Creek	Rev. Edward Smith
Meeks Grove	Rev. Carl Creasy
Midway	Rev. Jerry Strickland
Mt. Olive	Rev. Nick White
Murphy's Chapel	Rev. Grant Endicott
New Chapel	Rev. Charles Linam
New Pleasant Grove	Rev. Earl Rich
Piney Grove	Rev. Jack Byars, Jr.
Posey Chapel	Rev. Gilbert Mata
Rayborn Chapel	Rev. James Brewer
Scotts Chapel	Rev. Vernon Gober
Shady Grove	Rev. Jimmy Shields
Solitude	Rev. Marvin Morrow
Whites Creek	Rev. John E. Banks

ORDAINED DEACONS THEIR ADDRESSES AND PHONE NUMBERS

Adamsville

Bro. Robert Jarrett	Rt. 2, Box 465A, Adamsville, TN 38310
Wayne Helton	Rt. 1, Stantonville, TN 38379, Phone (901) 632-3768
Virgil Nixon	Rt. 2, Box 117, Adamsville TN 38310, Phone (901) 632-4620
Jerry Scott ...	Rt. 2, Box 53A, Adamsville, TN 38310, Ph. (901) 632-4628

Antioch

Bro. Kenneth Whitten	Rt. 12, Florence, AL 35630
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Bumpus Creek

Bro. Bill Benson	Waterloo, AL 35677, Phone (205) 767-7529
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Meeks Grove

Bro. E.G. Sowell, 500 Old Shiloh Rd., Adamsville, TN, (901) 632-0154	
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Midway

Bro. Stancil Robbins	Rt. 2, Leighton, AL 35646, (205) 446-6552
John W. Kidd	Rt. 2, Leighton, AL 35646, (205) 446-5583

New Pleasant Grove

Piney Grove

Bro. Ira Gillis Collinwood, TN 38450, (615) 724-9231
Robert D. Wright Cypress Inn, TN 38452, (615) 724-9691
Johnny Brewer

Posey Chapel

Rayborn Chapel

Bro. Jessie J. Melson Collinwood, TN 38450, (615) 724-4926

Scotts Chapel

Bro. Frank Pigg Collinwood, TN 38450, (615) 724-9547
Robert Berry Lutts, TN, (615) 724-9011
Alvin Gilchrist Lawrenceburg, TN 38464
Aaron Stults Cypress Inn, TN 38452, (615) 724-9219
Joel Pigg Cypress Inn, TN 38452, (615) 724-9263
J.W. Stooksberry Iron City, TN 38463, (615) 724-4340

Shady Grove

Clairce Franks Olive Hill, TN 38475, (901) 925-6070
Herbert Clay Savannah, TN 38372
Ricky Franks

Solitude

Whites Creek

D.E. Patterson Rt. 1, Savannah, TN 38372, (901) 925-3667
Jimmy Lambert .. Rt. 1, Box 144A, Savannah, TN 38372, (901) 925-3672

PROCEEDINGS

Friday morning, September 18, 1987

The Tennessee River Association met with Murphy's Chapel at 10:30 o'clock.
Opening song led by Bro. David Montgomery
Prayer by Bro. J.B. Harper
Welcome by Bro. Emerald Bailey
Message by Bro. Jimmy Shields
Subject Being Let Down
Scripture Acts 9:25, I Samuel 19:12, Mark 2:4
Dismissed By Bro. Vernon Gober

FRIDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

Song Bro. Stancil Robbins
Scripture read by Bro. Benton Brown, reading Isaiah 40:3-8
Special Address A.J. Looper, Free Will Baptist Childrens Home
Greenville, TN
Subject Accomplishments & Needs of Children's Home

APPOINTMENT OF VARIOUS COMMITTEES

Reading Clerks Bro. D.E. Patterson, Bro. Carl Harper
Finance Bro. Vernon Gober, J.W. Stooksberry, Bro. Stancil Robbins
Sunday School ... Bro. Edward Smith, Bro. Lem Hanback, Marion Rich
Obituary Bro. Odell Harper, Bro. Howard Massey, Edgar Melson
Program Bro. Benton Brown, Bro. David Montgomery,
Earl Dixon, Junior Gean

CALLED FOR CHURCH LETTERS AND RECOGNIZED THE DELEGATES

Adamsville

Bro. Virgil Nixon, Bro. Keith Nixon, Jimmy Flynn

Antioch

Bro. & Sis. Howard Whitten

Bumpus Creek - By Letter

Meeks Grove

Bro. E.G. Sowell, Bro. Gib Barnes

Midway

Bro. Stancil Robbins, Sis. Lela Hall, Sis Susie Hall

Mt. Olive

Bro. Frankie Austin

Murphy's Chapel - By Letter

New Chapel

Bro. Bill Mayhall, Bro Howard Massey

New Pleasant Grove

Bro. Benton Brown

Piney Grove

Bro. Marion Rich, Bro. Ray Balentine, Bro. Lem Hanback

Posey Chapel - By Letter

Rayborn Chapel

Bro. Edgar Melson

Scotts Chapel

Bro. Willis Wood, Bro. Carl Harper, Bro. Odell Harper, Bro. Curtis Pigg

Shady Grove

Bro. Clairce Franks, Bro. Ancil Franks

APPOINTED TO OTHER COMMITTEES

General Business

Bro. Charles Linam, Bro. J.B. Harper, Bro. Willis Wood

Education

Bro. Benton Brown, Bro. Junior Gean, Bro. Curtis Pigg

Temperance

Bro. Dalton Skaggs, Bro. Lige Dickey, Bro. Ancil Franks

Benevolence

Bro. Boyd Strickland, Bro. Ira Gillis, Bro. Frank Pigg

Resolution of Thanks

Sis. Lela Hall, Sis. Betty Harville, Sis. Willodean Harville

Motion made to adjourn until 9:00 o'clock Saturday morning.

Dismissed by Prayer.

FRIDAY NIGHT WORSHIP SERVICE

Song led by Bro. Ronald Brown
Prayer by Bro. V.H. Gean
1st Message by Rev. Lige Dickey
Scripture Isaiah 59:1-6
Subject "Power of The Living God"
2nd Message by Rev. J.B. Harper
Scripture I Corinthians 2:4, II Chronicles 14:7
Dismissed Rev. Allen Jones

SATURDAY MORNING BUSINESS SESSION

First song led by Bro. Ronald Brown
Prayer by Bro. Nick White
Scripture Read by Bro. Grant Endicott
Text II Timothy 4:8
Moderator called for reading of reports.

THE GENERAL BUSINESS REPORT

We, your committee on general business recommend that each church send \$75.00 or more each year 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 see that the financial needs of the church and the association be cared for.

We recommend each church give prayerful thought to the support of the Work of the Lord carried on by the association.

We recommend that our ministers pay a tenth, more or less, of the money received from ministerial work to the Home Mission Board, to be paid by August 30, of each year.

We recommend that each church pay two dollars per member, per year to the Association.

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 expenses as the Home Mission Board sees fit.

We recommend that the Associational Pastor be supported in his work of filling in where needed, looking for places to organize new churches, and if possible beginning mission work by other ministers within the association, especially those not holding churches.

We recommend that any man that acknowledges that he is called of God to preach, and when the church of which he is a member desires that he be licensed to preach the gospel the church shall bring their request before the presbytery of the association.

We recommend that he be examined by a council or otherwise before being licensed for a period of one year. The licensee shall at the end of one year go before the presbytery for examination before ordination.

The examination for license or ordination should refer to the piety and doctrine, the conviction and purpose, respecting work for the ministry and reputation for character and ability of the candidate.

We recommend that any minister coming from others bodies to this association that brings good recommendations from the church of which he is a member, go before the presbytery and if he believe and practice Free Will Baptist doctrine will grant him a card.

We recommend those desiring the office of a deacon who can qualify according to the scriptures 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 that they go before the presbytery before ordination.

We recommend that a minister or deacon be given a certificate or ordination when ordained and if he resigns or leaves the denomination he turn in his credentials. We recommend that a minister or deacon leaving the association be given a letter stating their standing with the association at time of departure.

We recommend those desiring the office of a minister or deacon abstain from strong drink, beer, whiskey, or anything harmful to our body and influence of the office we hold, we recommend that they back the Free Will Baptist Doctrine and practice its ordinances.

We recommend that each member back the association of which he is a member. We recommend that any church that calls a pastor that is not in a Free Will Baptist Presbytery that his name not appear in the minutes. We recommend that each church get its letter to the association on Friday and that the letter be read to the church and approved before sending it to the association if possible.

We recommend that if any church has a problem that they cannot work out they call the resolution committee to meet with them and if the committee cannot work it out they have a called session of the presbytery at the church and not bring it to the association. We recommend that each church call its pastor at least thirty days before the association meets if possible.

We recommend that the officers of the Fifth Sunday Meeting be elected and the Fifth Sunday Meetings places be selected at the last Fifth Sunday Meeting prior to the association meeting.

We recommend that the host church of the Fifth Sunday Meeting give the youth of their church the opportunity of conducting one of the services as encouragement to become involved in associational activities.

We recommend that the host church of the Fifth Sunday Meeting may have two preachers for Sunday. This is an option.

We recommend that the associational clerk be paid \$100.00 dollars per year to be paid from the Home Mission treasure.

We recommend that the Home Mission Treasure be paid \$75.00 dollars per year to be paid from the Home Mission Treasure.

We recommend that the Fifth Sunday Clerk be paid \$100.00 dollars per year from the Home Mission Treasure.

We recommend that preachers and deacons come to the association meetings.

We recommend directions to the host church of the association be added to the minutes. This report was adopted by the association.

Bro. Charles Linam, chairman

SUNDAY SCHOOL COMMITTEE

We your committee on Sunday Sunday School, wish to submit the following:

We have heard from 16 churches which have a present enrollemnt of 706 in Sunday School, with an average attendance of 615.

We recommend that each church have Sunday School regularly. We also recommend that all teachers be devout Christians sound in faith and able to teach with good leadership.

We recommend that parents carry their children to Sunday School that they may learn more of God's love for mankind.

We recommend that all visitors be made to feel welcome and made to feel that their being with us has made the service better and asked to come again.

We should pray more and show more love one for another, asking God for wisdom and patience to teach our children God's ways.

Chairman, Lem Hanback, Sr.

EDUCATIONAL COMMITTEE REPORT

We, your committee on education, and the definition of education to mean, "an act or process of learning by instruction, training, or example." Proverbs 4:14 says, "*Hear ye children, the instruction of a Father, and attend to know understanding. For I give you good doctrine, forsake ye not my law. For I was my Father's son, tender and only beloved in the sight of my mother. He taught me also, and said unto me, Let thine heart retain my words: Keep my commandments, and live.*"

We recommend that christian families have daily Bible study and prayer with their children. We also recommend that our young people, and others desiring further education, attend the Free Will Baptist Bible College in Nashville, Tennessee. Proverbs 22:6. "*Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it.*" Ephesians 6:1-4, "*Children obey your parents in the Lord; for this is right. Honor thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise; That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth. And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath; but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.*" 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 recommend that parents cooperate with schools as long as it is not against the teaching of the Bible. Stand against that which is evil. We recommend our churches use the King James version of the Bible and Free Will Baptist literature. We recommend our churches have Bible study and prayer meeting one night weekly, and establish and maintain a youth training program along with a yearly vacation Bible school. We also recommend our churches conduct a singing school every other year that we might better learn to praise the Lord in song. Ephesians 5:19, "*Speaking to yourself in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing, and making melody in your heart to the Lord.*"

Bro. Benton Brown, chairman

TEMPERANCE REPORT

We, your committee on temperance 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 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 from the mastery is temperate in all things,*" Therefore to please God we must be temperate in all walks of life.

Proverbs 20:1 says *"wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging, and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise.."*

Finding Habakkuk 2:15 to read: *"Woe unto him that giveth his neighbor drink, that putteth thy bottle to him, and makest him drunken also that thou mayest look on their nakedness."*

We believe this to condemn the voting for or sanctioning, the sale of alcoholic beverage.

Bro. Ancil Franks, chairman

OBITUARY REPORT

We, your committee on obituary, in sorrow report the death of 18 of our members since our last association. They are as follows:

Meeks Grove — 3

Sis. Rose Barns, Sis. Martha Kellenworth, Bro. Bobby Hughes

Midway — 2

Sis. Geneva Grissom, Sis. Marie Creekmore

New Chapel — 2

Bro. David Troy Duncan, Sis. Ola May Parrish

Piney Grove — 6

Sis. Floyce Warren, Sis. Mearle Morrow, Sis. Della Warrington
Bro. J.T. Rich, Bro. Floyd Pigg, Sis. Inez Pigg

Rayburn Chapel — 1

Bro. Dalton Bratcher

Scotts Chapel — 3

Sis. Vacey Reaves Henson, Sis. Ethel Robbins, Bro. Ray Stults

Solitude — 1

Sis. Oletta Jamerson

We trust our loss is Heaven's gain. This report was adopted by the association.

Bro. Odell Harper, chairman

REPORT OF BENEVOLENCE

We the people of the Benevolence Committee, finding that Benevolence means a willingness to do good, promote brotherly love, and to be kind to others. We feel the need to instill the following verses into the hearts of all those who read, believe, and obey the Word of God.

In Matthew 18:27, *"then the Lord of that servant was moved with compassion, and forgave him the debt."* As Christians we find in Colossians 3:13 the following *"Forebearing one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you so also do ye,"* Matthew 6:15 says

Then for our homes and family I Corinthians 7:3 says, "*Let the husband render unto the wife due benevolence, and likewise also the wife to the husband.*" This report was adopted by the association.

Bro. Boyd Stricklin, chairman

CLERK'S REPORT

1986 Balance Left In Treasure	\$00.00
Minute Fund Received From Churches	565.40
Expenses For Printing 1000 Minutes	766.40
Expenses For Computer Disc.....	<u>80.00</u>
Total Expenses	846.40
Balance of 281.00 taken from Home Mission Treasure to pay for 1986 minutes.	

FINANCE REPORT FOR MINUTE FUND

Adamsville	\$50.00
Antioch	\$20.00
Bumpus Creek.....	\$50.00
Meeks Grove	\$50.00
Midway	\$50.00
Mt. Olive	\$10.00
Murphy's Chapel	\$50.00
New Chapel	\$25.00
New Pleasant Grove.....	\$50.00
Piney Grove.....	\$50.00
Posey's Chapel	\$40.00
Rayborn Chapel	\$15.25
Scotts Chapel	\$50.00
Shady Grove	\$15.00
Solitude	\$19.85
Whites Creek	<u>\$40.00</u>
Total	\$585.10

This report adopted by the association.

Bro. J.W. Stooksberry, chairman

HOME MISSIONS BOARD REPORT

Balance forwarded 1986-87	\$3,182.76
Assoc. and Quarterly Offerings	\$739.32
Adamsville (Childrens Homes)	\$100.00
Antioch (Childrens Homes)	\$100.00
Mt. Olive (Childrens Homes)	\$50.00
New Chapel (Childrens Homes)	\$25.00
Scotts Chapel (Childrens HOMes)	\$251.66
Whites Creek (Childrens Homes)	\$237.27
TOTAL RECEIVED	\$1,503.25

HOME MISSIONS FUND

Adamsville	\$75.00
Antioch	75.00
Bumpus Creek	75.00
Midway	75.00
Mt. Olive	50.00
Murphy's Chapel	75.00
New Chapel	25.00
New Pleasant Grove	75.00
Piney Grove	75.00
Posey Chapel	40.00
Scott's Chapel	75.00
Solitude	<u>75.00</u>
TOTAL	\$790.00

MINISTERS TITHES

Rev. John E. Banks	\$281.00
Rev. Vernon H. Gober	35.00
Rev. Charles Linam	300.00
Rev. Earl Rich	100.00
Rev. Jimmy Shields	363.00
Rev. J.B. Harper	300.00
TOTAL	\$1,379.00

Interest received on account	\$103.01
Total received 1986-87	\$3,775.26
Total Received and Balance Forwarded	\$6,958.02

EXPENSES 1986 - 1987

Alabama Childrens Home	\$751.63
Tennessee Childrens Home	751.63
Rev. V.H. Gean (Assoc. Pastor)	1,200.00
Reimbursed John E. Banks For Minute Fund	281.00
Rev. Jerry Strickland (Assoc. Clerk)	100.00
Rev. Earl Rich (Quarterly Clerk)	100.00
Alan R. Gober (Sec. & Treasurer)	75.00
TOTAL EXPENSES 1986 - 1987	\$3,259.26
BALANCE FORWARDED 1987	\$3,698.76

Alan R. Gober, Secretary & Treasurer

ASSOCIATIONAL PASTORS REPORT

Visited 12 churches, helped in one revival, one weekend revival, assisted in 2 weekend revivals, witnessed 1 conversion, baptized 1, conducted 8 funerals, Money received \$2025.

Rev. V.H. Gean
Route 14, Box 309
Florence, Alabama 35630
(205) 766-3896

ASSOCIATIONAL BUSINESS

Moderator, Rev. Virgil Gene asked for patitionary letters, there was none. Vote taken on placing association, Piney Grove will be host church for 1988 Association. Vote taken on changing title of Fifth Sunday Meeting to Fifth Sunday Weekend Meeting. Votes were 12 for change, 0 against.

SATURDAY MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE

Song led by	Bro. Ronnie Brown
Prayer	Rev. Grant Endicott
1st Message by	Rev. Earl Rich
Subject	"Ready For The Other Side"
2nd Message by	Rev. Emerald Bailey
Subject	"Taking Things For Granted"
Scripture	Galatians 5:18-26
Dismissed by	Bro. Dalton Skaggs

SATURDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

Song led by Bro. Ronnie Brown
Prayer by Bro. Jack Byars
Scripture read by Bro. James Brewer
Text II Timothy 4:6-8

SATURDAY AFTERNOON PRESBYTERY

Mod. Rev. Virgil Gean called the meeting to order. Rev. Grant Endicott was assistant moderator. There were 14 churches present, 18 ordained ministers, 4 deacons and 3 visiting ministers. The minutes of the last presbytery session were read and approved. Scotts Chapel Church asked for the Fifth Sunday Weekend Meeting in November. They also sent a letter notifying the presbytery Bro. Danny Brown was under the watchcare of the church for deacon for 1 year. Rev. J.B. Harper was elected Assoc. Pastor for the next year. The presbytery voted in favor of waiting until the Fifth Sunday Weekend Meeting begins on Friday night to choose the program committee. The following ministers were present and gave a report and were granted a card: Emerald Bailey, Johnny Banks, Benton Brown, Carl Creasy, Lige Dickey, Earl Dixon, V.H. Gean, J.B. Harper, Charles Linam, Marvin Morrow, Earl Rich, Jimmy Shields, Dalton Skaggs, Edward Smith, Jerry Strickland, Nick White, Grant Endicott. Allen Jones, Vernon Gober, Virgil Moore, Elias Stephens and L.L. Wilson were absent but sent their report and were granted a card. The presbytery voted to drop Jamie Smith and Ralph Brown from the minutes because of their failure to report for 2 consecutive years. Motion made to adjourn. Dismissed by Rev. Virgil Gean.

ORDAINED MINISTERS REPORT

Rev. Emerald Bailey: Pastored 1 church, conducted 4 communion services., held 2 conferences, conducted 2 revivals, assisted in 1 revival, held 3 funerals, baptized 10, married 2 couples. Money received \$3,514.98, paid tithing into the church. *Card Granted.*

Rev. John E. Banks: Pastored Scotts Chapel Church, held one revival, one weekend revival, witnessed 6 professions, 3 rededications, baptized 9, held 4 funerals, married 2 couples. Money recieved \$5,420.00. *Card Granted.*

Rev. Benton Brown: Assisted in one weekend revival, held one conference, preached 14 sermons. Money received \$182.00, Tithes \$20.00. *Card granted.*

Rev. Carl Creasy: Pastored one church, held 1 weekend revival, helped in 1 revival, witnessed 5 professions, conducted 2 funerals, baptized 1, married 1 couple, witnessed 6 rededications, added 4 to church, 1 conference, 1 communion service. \$5,450.00 money received, tithe back to the church. *Card granted.*

Rev. Earl Dixon: Pastored 1 church, conducted 1 revival, witnessed 1 profession, baptized 1, received 1 into the church, conducted 1 communion service, held 2 conferences. *Card granted.*

Rev. Lige Dickey: No written report. *Card granted.*

Rev. Grant Endicott: Pastored 1 church, conducted 3 funerals, received 6 into the church, held 1 communion, traveled 6,000 miles. Received \$12,000. *Card granted.*

Rev. V.H. Gean: same as associational pastor. *Card granted.*

Rev. Vernon Gober: Sermons preached - 13, held 1 conference, married 1 couple, visited several churches. Money received - \$449.00. *Card granted.*

Rev. J.B. Harper: Pastored 1 church full time, held 2 revivals, witnessed 3 professions, 5 rededications, held 2 conferences, received 6 in church, held 5 funerals, assisted 2. Miles traveled unknown. Money received church & offering \$3,858.23. *Card granted.*

Rev. Allen Jones: Pastored 1 church full time, assisted in one revival & one weekend revival, performed 2 marriages, held one communion service, held one baccalaureate sermon, held one baptism, witnessed one profession of faith, witnessed one rededication. Money received \$2,610.00. Miles traveled unknown. *Card granted.*

Rev. Charles Linam: Pastored 1 church full time, held 1 revival, assisted in 1 revival, conducted 1 conference, received 5 into church, baptized 5, held 2 funerals, married 1 couple. Received \$300. *Card granted.*

Rev. Marvin Morrow: Pastored 1 church, held 1 revival, preached 6 revivals, miles traveled 5,250. Money received \$3,686.00. *Card granted.*

Rev. Virgil Moore: Sick in bed all year. *Card granted.*

Rev. Earl Rich: Pastored 1 church, preached 1 revival, Miles traveled 3,000. Money received \$2,700.00. *Card granted.*

Rev. Jimmy Shields: Pastored 1 church, conducted 2 communions, assisted in 1 revival, conducted 1 conference, received 4 into the church, witnessed 3 professions, witnessed 3 rededications, baptized 5. Money received \$4,306.45 gave tenth to the Association. Assisted in 1 funeral. *Card granted.*

Rev. Dalton Skaggs: Sermons preached approximately 40, churches pastored 1 half year, witnessed 2 rededications, miles traveled approx. 1000. Money received \$625.00. *Card granted.*

Rev. Edward Smith: Pastored 1 church, held 1 revival, witnessed 2 professions, baptized 1, held 1 communion service, married 1 couple, miles traveled unknown. Money received \$2,579.00. *Card granted.*

Rev. Ealis Stephens: preached 9 sermons, witnessed 4 professions, miles traveled unknown. Money received \$155.00. *Card granted.*

FIFTH SUNDAY WEEKEND MEETINGS

**Minutes of the Fifth Sunday Weekend Meeting at
Murphy's Chapel Freewill Baptist Church
November 28 & 29, 1986**

Friday Night Service

Service opened with a song led by Bro. Ronnie Brown. Prayer was by Rev. Emerald Bailey. Special singing was done by the Stricklin Family, and Joan Shields with the youth from Antioch Church. Moderator Rev. Virgil Gean read from 1st Thess. chapter 5 verses 1-21. First message was by Rev. Jimmy Shields reading scripture from 1st Peter chapter 2 verses 1-11. He used the subject "our part in serving Christ." He was followed by Rev. Earl Dixon reading scripture from Daniel chapter 10 verses 5-12. Dismissed by Rev. J.B. Harper.

Saturday Morning Service

Service opened with singing led by Bro. Ronnie Brown. Prayer by Rev. Earl Dixon. First message was by Rev. Jerry Strickland reading scripture from Matt. chapter 28 verses 19 & 20, St. John chapter 14 verse 16, 2nd Corinthians chapter 13 verse 14 and Acts chapter 10. He was followed by Rev. Marvin Morrow. He read from Luke chapter 18 verses 9-14. Service was dismissed by Rev. Jimmy Shields.

Saturday Afternoon Service

Singing was led by Bro. Ronnie Brown. Message was by Rev. Virgil Gean. He read from 1st Tim. chapter 4 and Acts chapter 2 verses 37-43. The presbytery session followed.

Presbytery Session

Moderator Rev. V.H. Gean called the session to order. Rev. Grant Endicott was his assistant. There were 6 churches represented, 10 ministers and 2 deacons present. Minutes from the previous Fifth Sunday Meeting were read and approved. Motion was made to send Bro. Allen Jones a card. Bro. Stancil Robbins, Rev. Johnny Banks and Rev. Earl Dixon were placed on the program committee. Session was dismissed by Rev. Earl Rich.

Saturday Night Service

Bro. Ronnie Brown was in charge of the singing. Prayer was by Rev. Jimmy Shields. The offering for the childrens' home was taken up. There was special singing done by the Stricklin Family, Joan Shields and The Young Christians. Message was by Rev. Earl Rich reading from Luke chapter 15 verse 17. Service was dismissed by Rev. Allen Austin.

**Minutes of the Fifth Sunday Weekend Meeting
At Adamsville First Freewill Baptist Church
March 27 & 28, 1987**

Friday Night Service

Service opened with prayer by Rev. Vernon Gober. Bro. Robert Jarrett was in charge of the singing. First message was by Rev. J.B. Harper reading scripture from Matthew chapter 6 verse 33. He was followed by Rev. Vernon Gober reading scripture from Mark chapter 5 verses 1-9. Service was dismissed by Rev. Earl Rich.

Saturday Morning Service

Service opened with a song led by Bro. Robert Jarrett. Prayer was by Rev. Johnny Banks. First message was by Rev. Emerald Bailey. He read scripture from the book of Jude verses 21-25 using the subject "spiritual foundation." He was followed by Rev. Edward Smith. Service was dismissed by Rev. Earl Rich.

Saturday Afternoon Service

Service opened with a song led by Bro. Stancil Robbins. Rev. Grant Endicott read scripture from Daniel chapter 1 verse 8. Message was by Rev. Benton Brown reading scripture from Jeremiah chapter 6 verse 16. Followed by the presbytery session.

Presbytery Session

Assistant Mod. Rev. Grant Endicott called the meeting to order. There were 8 churches represented, 13 ministers, and 4 deacons present. Minutes of the last presbytery session were read and approved. Shady Grove church sent a letter recommending Bro. Paul Franks be ordained for deacon. Bro. Franks was examined by the presbytery and found worthy. Rev. L. L. Wilson read scripture from 1st Tim. chapter 3 and the ordination service was conducted. Rev. Charles Linam, Rev. Emerald Bailey, and Rev. Vernon Gober were placed on the program committee for the next Fifth Sunday Weekend Meeting. Session was dismissed by Rev. Johnny Banks.

Saturday Night Service

Service opened with prayer by Rev. Jimmy Shields. Youth Program was conducted by the children from Eldridge, Alabama. Special singing was done by the Stricklin Family. Message was by Rev. Charles Linam. He read scripture from Daniel chapter 5 verse 27. Service was dismissed by Bro. Allen Austin.

**Minutes for the Fifth Sunday Weekend Meeting
At New Chapel Freewill Baptist Church
May 29 & 30, 1987**

Friday Night Service

Service opened with prayer led by Rev. Chalres Linam. Special singing was done by the church. First message was by Rev. Earl Rich reading scripture from Heb. chapter 11 verses 23-30, and Prov. Chapter 20 verse 17. He was followed by Rev. Grant Endicott. Service was dismissed by Rev. Marvin Morrow.

Saturday Morning Service

Service opened with singing led by Rev. J.B. Harper. Prayer was by Rev. Charles Linam. First message was by Rev. Earl Dixon reading scripture from Hosea chapter 4. He was followed by Rev. Jerry Strickland. He read scripture from 2 Kings chapter 6 verse 25. Dismissed by Rev. Emerald Bailey.

Saturday Afternoon Service

Service opened with special singing by the church. Message was by Rev. Allen Austin reading scripture from Daniel chapter 2 verses 1-4 and 26-28. Message was followed by the presbytery session.

Presbytery Session

Mod. Rev. Virgil Gean called the meeting to order. Rev. L.L. Wilson was appointed Assistant Mod. filling in for Rev. Grant Endicott. There were 8 churches represented, 11 ministers, 3 deacons, and 1 visiting minister. The minutes of the last session were read and approved. Shady Grove sent a letter recommending Bro. Ricky Franks be ordained for deacon. Bro. Franks went before the presbytery and was found worthy. Rev. Jimmy Shields read scripture from 1st Tim. chapter 3 and the ordination service was conducted. Shady Grove also recommended the presbytery to ask Jody Melson to return his deacon ordination certificate to the presbytery because of his departure from the church. The presbytery voted for the clerk to send Jody a letter asking him to return his certificate to the clerk. Presbytery voted not to renew the Assoc. tax number. Rev. Allen Austin, Rev. Carl Creasy, and Bro. H.C. Richardson were placed on the program committee for the next Fifth Sunday meeting. Motion was made to adjourn. Dismissed by H.C. Richardson.

Saturday Night Service

Service opened with singing led by the youth of the church. Prayer was by Hollis Southerland. Youth program consisted of singing done by the youth of New Chapel Church. Message was by Rev. Carl Creasy on the subject of "Getting High." He read scripture from Matt. chapter 4 verses 1-11. Dismissed by Rev. Edward Smith.

**Minutes of the Fifth Sunday Weekend Meeting
at Posey's Chapel Freewill Baptist Church
August 28 & 29, 1987**

Friday Night Service

Service opened with congregational singing. Prayer by Rev. Marvin Morrow. Mod. Rev. Virgil Gean conducted a testimony service and read scripture from Rev. chapter 22 verses 12-14. First message was by Rev. Jimmy Shields. He read scripture from Acts chapter 2 verses 1-8. He was followed by Rev. Charles Linam reading scripture from 2nd Cor. chapter 8 verses 9-17. His subject was "Cheerful Giver." Dismissed by Rev. Gilbert Mata..

Saturday Morning Service

Service opened with singing and prayer. First message was by Rev. Vernon Gober. He read scripture from 2nd Samuel chapter 3 using the subject "Cities of Refuge". Second message by Rev. L.L. Wilson reading scripture from 1st Tim. chapter 4 verse 12. He used the subject "Setting Examples." Dismissed by prayer.

Saturday Afternoon Services

Service opened with singing led by Rev. Earl Dixon. Message was by Rev. Edward Smith on the subject "Release." He read scripture from Eph. chapter 4 verses 21-32 and St. John chapter 19 verses 10-12. Followed by the presbytery session.

Presbytery Session

Meeting was called to order by Mod. Rev. Virgil Gean. Rev. Earl Dixon was appointed assistant Mod. There were 10 churches represented, 12 ministers and 2 deacons present. Minutes of the last session were read and approved. Bro. D.E. Patterson, Bro. Stancil Robbins and Rev. Benton Brown were placed on the committee to place the Fifth Sunday Weekend Meetings. They were placed as follows: Nov. - to be placed at the Assoc.; Jan. - Midway; May - Bumpas Creek; July - Piney Grove. Presbytery voted to wait till the Assoc. to elect the Assoc. pastor. Rev. Earl Dixon was elected Mod., Rev. Charles Linam was elected Assist. Mod. and Rev. Earl Rich was elected clerk of the Fifth Sunday Weekend Meetings. Presbytery voted to reimburse Rev. Johnny Banks his expense for the printing of the minutes. Presbytery voted in favor of the trustees selling the tent. Motion was made to adjourn. Dismissed by prayer.

Saturday Night Service

Service opened with singing led by Rev. J.B. Harper. Prayer by Rev. Virgil Gean. There was special singing by some young people, Sis. Joan Shields and children, and Bro. Earnest (Bo) and Crystal Holt. Rev. Earl Dixon was in charge of the childrens' home offering. Message was by Rev. Johnny Banks. He read scripture from Heb. chapter 12 verses 25-27 and Rev. chapter 6 verses 12-17. Service was dismissed by Bro. Willy Posey.

Churches	By Baptism	By Letter	By Experience	Restored	Dismissed by Letter	Withdrawn	Deceased	Membership	Sunday School	Average Attendance	Deacons	Ordained Ministers	Licensed Minister	Church Value	Amount Paid Pastor	Pastoral Help	Home Missions	Minute Fund	Children's Home
Adamsville	3	1	3	2				75	46	46	4	4		\$80,000	\$2,675.00	\$325.00	\$75.00	\$50.00	\$100.00
Antioch	5		1					48	26	25	1	2		\$45,000	\$4,306.45	\$475.00	\$75.00	\$20.00	\$100.00
Bumpus Creek								100	40	40	2			\$20,000	\$2,559.00	\$207.00	\$75.00	\$50.00	
Meeks Grove	1	4	2					3	114	56	56	1	2	\$40,000	\$5,400.00			\$50.00	\$100.00
Midway	1	1	3	1	2	96	50	40	4	1				\$60,000	\$5,650.00	\$780.00	\$75.00	\$50.00	
Mt. Olive						24	13	12	1					\$25,000	\$2,750.00	\$175.00	\$50.00	\$10.00	\$50.00
Murphy's Chapel		3	12	2	2	85	50	45	3	4				\$130,000	\$12,250.00	\$458.82	\$75.00	\$50.00	\$120.00
New Chapel	5	3			2	50	30	40						\$20,000	\$200.00	\$100.00	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$25.00
New Pleasant Grove			1			50	15	15	1					\$40,000	\$2,650.00	\$150.00	\$75.00	\$50.00	\$330.00
Piney Grove																			

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 Association of Free Will Baptists, and shall be 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 delgate for every additional twenty-five members.

Article 3. The officers of this body shall be a moderator, an 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 his 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 association shall use a treatise of the faith and practices of Free Will Baptists from the National Association of Free Will Baptists.

Article 8. 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 discussion 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 "yes" 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.

17. Any minister who fails to get his report before the presbytery for two consecutive years, his name shall be dropped from the minutes.

ARTICLES OF FAITH

1. The Bible—The Scriptures of the Old and New Testament 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 on 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 exercised 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—God desires the salvation of all, the gospel invites all, the Holy Spirit strives with all and whosoever will may come and take the water of life freely.

12. Perseverance —All believers in Christ, who through grace preserve in holiness to the end of life, have promise of eternal salvation.

13. Gospel Ordinances —Baptism, or the immersion of believers in water, and the Lord's Supper or 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

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 _____,
withdrawn _____, 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 _____

