

MINUTES

OF THE

122st Annual Session of the

TENNESSEE RIVER

ASSOCIATION

of

Free Will Baptists

Convened with

Solitude Church

Friday, September 15, 2000

The next association will convene with
New Pleasant Grove
on Friday before the third Sunday in
September 2001, at 10:30 A.M.

(See map inside back cover for directions.)

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ASSOCIATIONAL OFFICERS AND THEIR ADDRESSES

Moderator Rev. Vernon Gober, 4293 State Road 22 N.,
Adamsville, TN 38310-2507 Phone (901) 632-4228
Assistant Moderator Rev. Paul Childers, 1485 Mayhall Road,
Counce, TN 38326, Phone (901) 689-5548
Clerk Bro. Darrell West, 8231 Middle Butler Road,
Iron City, TN 38463, Phone (931)724-4301

HOME MISSIONS BOARD

Secretary-Treasurer ... Bro. Alan Gober, 1404 Winding Way, White House, TN 37188
Bro. J. W. Stooksberry 1030 Stooksberry Road, Iron City, TN 38463
Rev. Marvin Marrow 1351 Cromwell Ridge Road, Cypress Inn, TN 38452

ASSOCIATIONAL PASTOR

Rev. Dalton Skaggs 100 Catawba Drive, Collinwood, TN 38450
Phone. (931) 724-9622

OFFICERS OF FIFTH SUNDAY MEETINGS

Moderator Rev. Jimmy Shields, 196 County Road 262,
Florence, AL 35633, Phone (256) 766-6926
Assistant Moderator Rev. James R. Flatt, 2333 Mount Vernon Road
Stantonville, TN 38379, Phone (901) 632-4622
Clerk Rev. Keith Montgomery, 2515 County Road 261,
Florence, AL 35633, Phone (256) 760-0925

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Bro. Danny Brown 1016 Oakwood Drive, Cypress Inn, TN 38452
Rev. James Flatt 2333 Mount Vernon Road, Stantonville, TN 38379
Bro. Charles Moore 8746 Leapwood-Enville, Road, Adamsville, TN 38310

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Everything will be brought to the executive committee before being presented to the presbytery. The committee will consist of five members. They are as follows.

Bro. J. W. Stooksberry (2005)	Rev. Jimmy Shields (2002)
Rev. Dalton Skaggs (2004)	Rev. Tim Hanback (2001)
Rev. Vernon Gober (Chairman) (2003)	

REVIEW COMMITTEE

This committee is to review the character and testimony of the ministers with a lifetime card each year.

Rev. John E. Banks

Rev. Tim Hanback

Rev. Carl Creasy

PLACING OF FIFTH SUNDAY MEETINGS

October 2000.....Plummers Chapel
December 2000.....Scotts Chapel
April 2001.....Piney Grove
July 2001.....New Pleasant Grove

CHURCH CLERKS AND THEIR ADDRESSES

Adamsville Sis. Cindy Wolfe
577 Hagy Lane, Shiloh, TN 38376
Bumpus Creek Sis. Linda Scott
9224 Sixty-Nine Hwy., Lutts, TN 38471
Meeks Grove Sis. Betty Milford
1123 Tommy Sanders Road, Stantonville, TN 38379
Midway Sis. Lela Hall
2375 Waldrep Loop, Leighton, AL 35646
Murphy's Chapel Sis. Cathy Creasy
1650 County Road 141, Florence, AL 35633
New Chapel Sis. Linda Moore
1865 Kendrick Road, Michie, TN 38357
New Pleasant Grove Sis. Joan Shields
196 County Road 262, Florence, AL 35633
Piney Grove Bro. Roger Stults
1080 Big Cypress Road, Cypress Inn, TN 38452
Plummer's Chapel Sis. Connie Pinson
2670 Highway 203, Savannah, TN 38372
Rayborn Chapel Bro. Edgar Melson
6698 Rayborn Creek Road, Collinwood, TN 38450
Scotts Chapel Sis. Judy Harper
5261 Pumping Station Road, Iron City, TN 38463
Shady Grove Sis. Teresa Hughes
1205 Number Two Road, Savannah, TN 38372
Solitude Sis. Amanda Gober
P.O. Box 715, Adamsville, TN 38310
Whites Creek Sis. Brenda Lambert
5725 Holland Creek Road, Savannah, TN 38372

ORDAINED MINISTERS: THEIR ADDRESSES AND PHONE NUMBERS

Rev. Chad Balentine	P.O. Box 251, Collinwood, TN 38450 Phone: (931) 724-5995
Rev. John E. Banks	1344 Chisholm Road, Cypress Inn, TN 38452 Phone: (931) 724-9156
Rev. Benton Brown	820 Clay Loop, Savannah, TN 38372 Phone: (901) 925-9313
Rev. Paul Childers	1485 Mayhall Road, Counce, TN 38326 Phone: (901) 689-5548
Rev. Carl Creasy	6421 County Road 10, Florence, AL 35633 Phone: (256) 766-5958
Rev. Greg Eaton	295 Kilburn Hollow Road, Waynesboro, TN 38485 Phone: (931) 722-7581
Rev. James Flatt	2333 Mount Vernon Road, Stantonville, TN 38379 Phone: (901) 632-4622
Rev. V. H. Gean	1697 County Road 143, Florence, AL 35633 Phone: (256) 766-3896
Rev. Vernon Gober	4293 State Road 22 North, Adamsville, TN 38310-2507 Phone: (901) 632-4228
Rev. Tim Hanback	2420 Chisholm Road, Iron City, TN 38463 Phone: (931) 724-5371
Rev. Carlos Hughes	225 Saddle Club Loop, Lexington, TN 38351 Phone: (901) 968-8194
Rev. Charles Linam	26 Southerland Lane, Savannah, TN 38372 Phone: (901) 925-2923
Rev. Keith Montgomery	2515 County Road. 261, Florence, AL 35633 Phone: (256) 760-0925
Rev. Virgil Moore	100 Beason Dr., Morris Chapel, TN 38361-4400 Phone: (901) 632-3256
Rev. Marvin Morrow	1351 Cromwell Ridge Road, Cypress Inn, TN 38452 Phone: (931) 724-9663
Rev. Earl Rich	4258 Rose Lane, Cypress Inn, TN 38452 Phone: (931) 724-9654
Rev. Jimmy Shields	196 County Road 262, Florence, AL 35633 Phone: (256) 766-6926
Rev. Dalton Skaggs	100 Catawba Dr., Collinwood, TN 38450 Phone: (931) 724-9622
Rev. Edward Smith	3856 Shiloh Adamsville Road, Stantonville, TN 38379 Phone: (901) 632-4413

LICENSED MINISTERS

Rev. Jeremy Holt	900 Roanoake Creek Road, Collinwood, TN 38450 Phone (931) 724-6615
Rev. Marcus Morrow	3420 Cromwell Ridge Road, Cypress Inn, TN, 38452 Phone (931) 724-5830
Rev. Junior Overstreet	1289 Dave Rich Road, Cypress Inn, TN 38452 Phone (931) 724-4795

ROLL OF DECEASED MINISTERS

<u>Minister</u>	<u>Years of Service</u>
Rev. George W. Arnold	23
Rev. R. T. Berry	10
Rev. Elton Cotner	39
Rev. Vernon Creasy	9
Rev. Lige Dickey	44
Rev. Boss G. Gibson	4
Rev. B. A. Hale	20
Rev. Don Hanback	1
Rev. J. B. Harper	60
Rev. Clarence Harris	5
Rev. R. A. Johnson	35
Rev. J. B. McGee	18
Rev. L. L. Moore	22
Rev. J. A. Moyer	26
Rev. R. P. Owen	14
Rev. J. Whitfield Phillips	42
Rev. Walker Rich	13
Rev. H. M. Richardson	12
Rev. Earnest Robertson	9
Rev. Dewey Stults	11
Rev. J. J. Tune	Unknown
Rev. Eargin Warren	18
Rev. J. B. Webb	Unknown
Rev. Nick White	43
Rev. L. L. Wilson	43

CHURCH PASTORS

Adamsville	Rev. Greg Eaton
Bumpus Creek	Rev. James Flatt
Meeks Grove	Rev. Charles Linam
Midway	Rev. Everett Rich
Murphy's Chapel	Rev. Carl Creasy
New Chapel	Rev. Paul Childers
New Pleasant Grove	Rev. Jimmy Shields
Piney Grove	Rev. Keith Montgomery
Plummer's Chapel	Rev. Benton Brown
Rayborn Chapel	
Scotts Chapel	Rev. Tim Hanback
Shady Grove	Rev. Carlos Hughes
Solitude	Rev. Marvin Morrow
Whites Creek	Rev. Jimmy McGee

**ORDAINED DEACONS
THEIR ADDRESS AND PHONE NUMBERS**

ADAMSVILLE

Bro. Robert Jarrett 1861 Caney Branch Road, Adamsville, TN 38310
Bro. Virgil Nixon 939 Old Shiloh Road, Adamsville, TN 38310
Phone: (901) 632-4620
Bro. Jerry Scott Route 2, Box 53A, Adamsville, TN 38310
Phone: (901) 632-4629

BUMPUS CREEK

Bro. Bill Benson Box 61, Waterloo, AL 35630
Phone: (256) 760-1664
Bro. Steve Holcombe 1375 County Road 90, Waterloo, AL 35630
Phone: (256) 766-9802

MEEKS GROVE

Bro. E. G. Sowell 500 Old Shiloh Road, Adamsville, TN 38310
Phone: (901) 632-0154
Bro. Charles Taylor 821 Tommy Sanders Road, Stantonville, TN 38379
Phone: (901) 632-4042

MIDWAY

Bro. Steve Creasy 524 Piney Woods Road, Russellville, AL 35654
Phone: (256) 332-3679
Bro. Claude Hall 2375 Waldrep Loop Road, Leighton, AL 35646
Phone: (256) 446-8757
Bro. Stancil Robbins 2130 Piney Woods Road, Leighton, AL 35646
Phone: (256) 446-6552

MURPHY'S CHAPEL

NEW CHAPEL

Bro. Andy Moore 1865 Kendrick Road, Michie, TN 38357

NEW PLEASANT GROVE

PINEY GROVE

Bro. Ira Gillis Collinwood, TN 38450
Phone: (931) 724-9231
Bro. Robert D. Wright Cypress Inn, TN 38452
Phone: (931) 724-9691
Bro. Coy Weeks Iron City, TN 38463
Phone: (931) 724-4593
Bro. Joe Hanback Collinwood, TN 38450
Phone: (931) 724-9937

ORDAINED DEACONS (continued)

PLUMMER'S CHAPEL

Bro. L. D. Irvin 5580 County Home Road, Savannah, TN 38372
Bro. Billy Pinson 2670 Highway 203, Savannah, TN 38372
Bro. Charles Copeland 1480 Bensontown Dr., Savannah, TN 38372

RAYBORN CHAPEL

Bro. Jessie J. Melson Collinwood, TN 38450
Phone: (931) 724-4926

SCOTTS CHAPEL

Bro. Robert Berry 2355 Weatherford Creek Road, Lutts, TN 38471
Phone: (931) 724-9011
Bro. Danny Brown 1016 Oakwood Dr., Cypress Inn, TN 38452
Phone: (931) 724-9509
Bro. J. W. Stooksberry 1030 Stooksberry Road, Iron City, TN 38463
Phone: (931) 724-4340
Bro. Aaron Stults 6101 Fantail Branch Road, Cypress Inn, TN 38452
Phone: (931) 724-9219
Bro. Joel Pigg 4114 Walter Pigg Road, Cypress Inn, TN 38452
Phone: (931) 724-9263

SHADY GROVE

Bro. Paul Franks Olive Hill, TN 38475
Phone: (901) 925-6070

SOLITUDE

Bro. Charles Moore 8746 Leapwood-Enville Road, Adamsville, TN 38310
Phone: (901) 632-3112
Bro. Clarence Cook 202 Landreth Lane, Adamsville, TN 38310
Phone: (901) 632-3736
Bro. Gary Gober P.O. Box 715, 331 Hickory Street, Adamsville, TN 38310
Phone: (901) 632-4989
Bro. Greg Martin 1900 Pine Ridge Lane, Adamsville, TN 38310
Phone: (901) 632-5061

WHITES CREEK

Bro. Jimmy Lambert 5725 Holland Creek Road, Savannah, TN 38372
Phone: (901) 925-3672

PROCEEDINGS

Friday Morning, September 15, 2000

The Tennessee River Association met with Solitude Church at 10:30 A.M.

Opening song led by Rev. Marvin Morrow
Prayer by Rev. Carl Creasy
followed by an altar prayer
Welcome by Rev. Paul Childers
Message by Rev. Vernon Gober
Scripture Psalms 19:1-2 & 7-10, Phil. 4:4-9
Subject Imposed on by the Lord
Dismissed by Rev. Jimmy Shields

Friday Afternoon Session

Song Led by Bro. Charles Moore
Scripture Read by Bro. Lem Hanback
Scripture Psalms 27
Prayer by Bro. Steve Holcombe

Appointment of Various Committees

Reading Clerks Bro. Carl Harper, Bro. Joe Hanback
Finance Bro. Lem Hanback, Bro. Stan Horton, Bro. Tommy Cossey
Sunday School Rev. Carl Creasy, Bro. Danny Brown, Rev. Charles Linam
Obituary Sis. Cindy Wolfe, Sis. Pat Dye, Sis. Connie Pinson
Program Rev. Marvin Morrow, Bro. Charles Moore, Bro. Greg Martin

CALLED FOR CHURCH LETTERS AND RECOGNIZED THE DELEGATES

Adamsville
Sis. Cindy Wolfe

Bumpus Creek
Bro. Steve Holcombe, Sis. Diane Holcombe

Meeks Grove
Bro. Jerry Whitten, Bro. Ray Milford

Midway
By Letter

Murphy's Chapel
Bro. Ronald Brown

New Chapel

Bro. Tony Smith, Sis. Carolyn Wilson, Sis. Mary Ann Smith

New Pleasant Grove

Bro. Monroe Hubbard, Sis. Susie Hubbard

Piney Grove

Bro. Lem Hanback, Bro. Stan Horton, Bro. Junior Wright, Bro. Jay Sandusky

Plummer's Chapel

Bro. Billy Pinson, Sis. Connie Pinson

Rayborn Chapel

Bro. Edgar Melson

Scotts Chapel

Bro. Roy Bowers, Bro. Carl Harper, Bro. Jim Berry

Shady Grove

Bro. Buddy Melson, Sis. Eula Mae Melson

Solitude

Bro. Greg Martin

Whites Creek

Bro. Dee Patterson, Bro. Tommy Cossey, Bro. Ross Vickory

APPOINTMENT OF OTHER COMMITTEES

General Business Rev. Paul Childers, Rev. Vernon Gober,
Bro. Coy Weeks, Bro. J. W. Stooksberry, Bro. Junior Wright
Education Bro. Jerry Whitten, Bro. Roy Bowers, Bro. Ronald Brown
Temperance Bro. Bob Berry, Bro. Charles Taylor, Bro. Dalton Skaggs
Benevolence Rev. Jimmy Shields, Bro. Billy Pinson, Bro. Tony Smith
Resolution of Thanks . Sis. Susie Hubbard, Sis. Carolyn Wilson, Sis. Mary Ann Smith

FRIDAY NIGHT WORSHIP SERVICE

Song Led by Bro. Charles Moore
Prayer by Rev. Jimmy McGee
1st Message by Rev. Carl Creasy
Scripture Due. 10:10-13
Subject Service Test
2nd Message by Rev. Charles Linam
Scripture Eph. 3:7-15
Subject Riches of the Redeemed
Dismissed by Rev. Junior Overstreet

SATURDAY MORNING BUSINESS SESSION

Song Led by Rev. Marvin Morrow
Scripture Read by Rev. Charles Linam
Scripture 1 Cor. 13:1-13
Prayer Rev. Tim Hanback

GENERAL BUSINESS REPORT

We your committee on general business recommends the committee be composed of five members.

We recommend that each church send \$150.00 to the Home Missions Board each year. We recommend it be sent by the first of January.

We recommend that each church send the State and National dues of \$60.00 to the Association with their letter each year.

We recommend that the deacons remind the churches, according to Acts 6:3, we feel it is their duty to make sure the financial needs of their church and the Association are met.

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

We recommend all our Ministers pay a tenth of the money received from ministerial work to the Home Missions Board by the 30th of August of each year.

We recommend each church call its pastor at least thirty days before the Association meets. We recommend church conferences use secret ballots to elect or reelect nominees for a pastor.

We recommend the officers of the Fifth Sunday meetings be elected and the Fifth Sunday meeting places be selected at the last Fifth Sunday meeting before the Associational meeting. We recommend that said officers be elected for a one year term.

We recommend the Associational Clerk, Home Missions Treasurer, and Fifth Sunday Clerk each be paid \$200.00 per year from the Home Missions Treasury.

We recommend preachers and deacons come to the Associational meetings.

We recommend directions to the host church of the Association remain in the minutes each year.

We recommend that any church desiring to borrow money for any additions or improvements, petitions the trustees for up to \$15,000.00, and if approved, to be granted the money within 14 days of the petition. This money is to be repaid within one year without interest.

We recommend that the Association continue its work with the youth and also continue the quarterly youth meetings.

We recommend that each church include the name and address of the youth director in their letter each year.

We recommend that all amounts contributed to the Home Missions Fund, in excess of the recommended amount for each church, be deposited in the Associational Building Fund.

We recommend the names of all ministers and deacons present at each presbytery meeting be shown in the minutes.

Rev. Paul Childers, Chairman

SUNDAY SCHOOL REPORT

We your committee on Sunday School wishes to submit the following.

We have heard from 13 churches which have a present enrollment of 811 in Sunday School, with an average attendance of 711.

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, the Sunday School Committee, recommend that all Sunday School Superintendents take an active role in overseeing Sunday School activities and make recommendations that will encourage strong leadership qualities in Sunday School teachers and enhance the attendance of Sunday School members.

We recommend that all churches provide up to date study/teaching materials for all age classes. We also encourage Sunday School Superintendents in the Association to meet and discuss methods of teaching and activities of the churches and methods of problem solving. We recommend that the meeting be held quarterly for these sessions.

We recommend that all visitors be made to feel welcome and made to feel that their being with us had made the service better and ask them 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.

Bro. Danny Brown, Chairman

EDUCATIONAL COMMITTEE REPORT

We, your committee on education, find the definition of education to mean "an act or process of learning by instruction, training, or example." Proverbs 4:1-4 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 College in Nashville, Tennessee. We should strive to learn more about our Lord. According to 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 6:1-6: *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 Father, 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 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. Christian parents should 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 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 once per 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. Roy Bowers, Chairman

TEMPERANCE REPORT

We your committee on temperance in regard to strong drink, whiskey, drugs or any other thing harmful to the body to mean total abstinence from these things. We believe this is to condemn the voting for or sanctioning the sale of alcoholic beverages. Once a word is spoken, it cannot be unsaid.

We as Christians should remember that being temperate is not only moderation, but also abstinence from all things displeasing to the Lord.

We find that in I Cor. 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.

Prov. 20:1 says, *Wine is mockery, strong drink is raging and whosoever is deceived is not wise.*

Ep. 5:8 says, *And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess, but be filled with the spirit.*

Titus 2:2 says, *That the aged men be sober, grave, temperate, sound in faith, in charity, in patience.*

2 Peter 1:5-8: *And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; and to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; and to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

1 Peter 3:10 says, *For he that will love life, and see good days let him refrain his tongue from evil and his lips that they speak no gile.*

James says in chapter 3:8, *but the tongue can no man tame, it is an unruly evil full of deadly poison.*

Temperance - The virtue of one who masters his desires and passions, especially his sensual appetites. Taken from the New Ungers Bible Dictionary.

Rev. Dalton Skaggs, Chairman

OBITUARY REPORT

Adamsville Sis. Lou Jane Wilson

Meeks Grove Sis. Tommy Kirk

Midway Sis. Viola Hostile, Sis. Beatrice Johnson

Murphy's Chapel Bro. Rickey Brown

New Chapel Bro. Stacy Parson, Bro. Billy Mayhall

New Pleasant Grove Bro. Fred Bowen, Bro. John Reed, Bro. Alvah Hatcher
Sis. Martha Foster, Sis. Lula Hatcher

Piney Grove Sis. Velma (Patterson) Madbalozzo

Scotts Chapel . Sis. Ada Bell (Martin) Greeson, Sis. Lucille Wood, Sis. Mearle Harper

Solitude Sis. Edna Julian, Sis. Mary Weeks, Sis. Lena Finley

Whites Creek Sis. Edith Bevis

Sis. Connie Pinson, Chairperson

REPORT ON 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 that the pastors and church members as a whole body should visit the sick of the church and the people of the church community. We recommend each pastor coming into a new church at the beginning of a new year visit the community surrounding the church. We feel the need to instill the following verses into the hearts of all those, who read, believe and obey the Word of God.

As Christians we find in Colossians 3:13 the following *Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any; even as Christ forgave you so also do ye.* Matthew 6:15 says, *But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your father forgive your trespasses.* Matthew 5:43 says *Give to him that asketh thee, and from him that would borrow of them turn not thou away.* In Acts 20:35 Paul says, *I have shewed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than receive.*

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.*

And remember the most important things. I Corinthians 13:13 says *...and now abideth Faith, Hope, Charity, these three, But the greatest of these is Charity.*

Rev. Jimmy Shields, Chairman

CLERK'S REPORT

1998 Balance left in treasury	\$ 1,957.80
Minute fund for 1999	\$587.00
Interest	<u>\$51.07</u>
Total	\$ 2,595.87
Expenses for printing minutes for 1999	<u>\$520.00</u>
Balance for 1999	\$ 2,075.87

Rev. John E. Banks, Clerk

FINANCE REPORT FOR MINUTE FUND

Adamsville	\$ 50.00
Bumpus Creek	50.00
Meeks Grove	50.00
Midway	50.00
Murphy's Chapel	25.00
New Chapel	50.00
New Pleasant Grove	50.00
Piney Grove	50.00
Plummer's Chapel	25.00
Rayborn Chapel	16.50
Scotts Chapel	50.00
Shady Grove	50.00
Solitude	25.00
Whites Creek	<u>50.00</u>
	\$ 591.50

**HOME MISSIONS BOARD REPORT
RECEIPTS 1999 - 2000**

Children's Home

Adamsville	\$ 500.00
Meeks Grove	500.00
Midway	400.00
New Chapel	752.00
Plummers Chapel	512.35
Scotts Chapel	1,709.07
Shady Grove	300.00
White's Creek	<u>279.00</u>
	\$4,952.42

Home Missions

Adamsville	\$ 150.00
Bumpus Creek	150.00
Meek's Grove	100.00
Midway	150.00
Murphy's Chapel	50.00
New Chapel	150.00
New Pleasant Grove	150.00
Piney Grove	150.00
Plummers Chapel	50.00
Scotts Chapel	100.00
Shady Grove	150.00
Solitude	150.00
White's Creek	<u>100.00</u>
	\$ 1,600.00

State Associational Dues

Meek's Grove	\$ 60.00
New Chapel	60.00
New Pleasant Grove	60.00
Piney Grove	60.00
Scotts Chapel	60.00
Shady Grove	60.00
Solitude	65.00
White's Creek	<u>60.00</u>
	\$ 485.00

MINISTERS' TITHES

Rev. Paul Childers	\$ 480.00
Rev. Vernon Gober	250.00
Rev. Keith Montgomery	200.00
Rev. Jimmy Shields	<u>510.00</u>
	\$ 1,440.00

OTHER INCOME

Associational & Quarterly Offerings	\$ 2,977.50
Associational Walkathon	\$ 2,400.00
Interest Income	<u>\$ 159.57</u>
	\$ 5,537.07

Total Received 1999-2000	\$ 14,014.49
Balance Forwarded 1999-2000	<u>\$14,230.29</u>
Total Received and Balance Forwarded	\$28,244.78

EXPENSES 1999-2000

Alabama Children's Home	\$ 5,164.96
Tennessee Children's Home	\$5,164.96
Rev. Vernon H. Gober (Associational Pastor)	\$2,400.00
Rev. John E. Banks (Associational Clerk)	200.00
Rev. Keith Montgomery (Quarterly Clerk)	200.00
Rev. Alan R. Gober (Associational Sec. & Treasurer)	200.00
Tennessee State Association Dues	860.00
National Home Missions(Home General Fund)	1,000.00
National Home Missions(Foreign General Fund)	<u>1,000.00</u>
Total Expenses	\$ 16,189.92

Balance Forwarded 2000-2001	\$ 12,054.86
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BUILDING FUND

Balance Forwarded 1999-2000	\$ 32,713.26
Interest Received	<u>\$788.22</u>
Balance Forwarded 2000-2001	\$ 33,501.48

Alan R. Gober, Secretary & Treasurer
1404 Winding Way, White House, TN 37188

ASSOCIATIONAL PASTOR'S REPORT

Visited all the churches in the Association several times. Attended the State Association in Greenville, TN. Filled in for several pastors. Served on the Greenville Free Will Baptist Family Ministries Board of Directors. Held one funeral, solemnized one marriage, witnessed two professions, two rededications. Total money received \$4,375.00. Miles traveled 6,850.

ASSOCIATIONAL BUSINESS

Rev. Vernon Gober was reelected as the Associational Moderator. A motion was made and seconded that The Tennessee River Association reimburses the Associational Clerk, the Associational Secretary-Treasurer and the Fifth Sunday Meeting Clerk for expenses incurred in the administering of the duties of their office. This motion passed. A motion was made and seconded that a new committee is formed to review the character and testimony of the ministers with a lifetime card. This committee will be the Review Committee. This committee's members will be listed in the minutes. This motion passed. Rev. John E. Banks, Rev. Tim Hanback and Rev. Carl Creasy were elected to serve on the Review Committee.

SATURDAY MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE

Song Led by Rev. Paul Childers
Prayer by Rev. John E. Banks
Bro. Jack Taylor spoke on the status of Family Ministries in Greenville, TN.
Bro. Charles Thigpen gave a report on the Free Will Baptist Bible College in Nashville, TN.
Message by Rev. Dalton Skaggs
Scripture Psalms 124:1-8
Subject The Goodness of God
Dismissed by Rev. Marcus Morrow

SATURDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

Song Led by Bro. Lem Hanback
Scripture Read by Bro. Alan Gober
Scripture Psalms 92:1-15
Dismissed by Rev. Carl Creasy

MINUTES OF THE PRESBYTERY SESSION HELD AT THE ASSOCIATION SOLITUDE FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH SEPTEMBER 16, 2000

Moderator Rev. Jimmy Shields called the session to order, with Rev. James Flatt assisting. There were 12 churches represented, 17 ordained ministers, 1 licensed minister, 5 ordained deacons, 1 visiting minister and 3 deacons under the watch care of the church. The following ministers were present, reported and were granted a card: Chad Balentine, John E. Banks, Paul Childers, Carl Creasy, Greg Eaton, James Flatt, Tim Hanback, Carlos Hughes, Charles Linam, Keith Montgomery, Marvin Morrow, Earl Rich, Jimmy Shields, Dalton Skaggs. The following lifetime card holders were present and reported: Benton Brown, V. H. Gean, Vernon Gober, Edward Smith and Virgil Moore.

Under old business, a previous recommendation on the subject of raising the salary of the associational pastor was discussed. It was decided that this should be handled by the Home Missions Board. The recommendation was handed over to the board. Solitude sent a letter stating that Greg Martin's one year of being under the watch care of the church was up and asked that he be ordained. Bumpus Creek sent a letter stating the same about Steve Holcombe. Piney Grove sent a letter requesting that Chad Balentine be ordained to preach the gospel and Jeremy Holt, Junior Overstreet and Marcus Morrow to be licensed to preach. Greg Martin, Steve Holcombe and Chad Balentine were ordained. There being no further business the motion was made and passed to adjourn. Dismissed.

ORDAINED MINISTERS' REPORTS

Rev. Chad Balentine, pastored Phillips Chapel Church, preached 104 sermons, married 1 couple, held funeral, witnessed 6 professions, 4 rededications, baptized 3, money received \$3,900.00. Card granted.

Rev. John E. Banks, pastored Collinwood Free Will Baptist Church, held 1 revival, 1 weekend revival, baptized 4, married 3 couples, held 2 funerals, money received \$5,027.00. Card granted.

Rev. Benton Brown, pastored Plummer's Chapel Church, held 3 conferences, 1 communion service, 2 funeral, assisted in 1 revival, witnessed 5 conversions, baptized 3, married 2 couples, preached 100 sermons, money received \$6,500.00. Gave back to the church \$1,037.00. Has lifetime card.

Rev. Paul Childers, pastored New Chapel Church, 1 conference, witnessed 2 professions, baptized 7, 5 rededications, 2 communion services, 5 funeral, assisted in 2 funerals, married 1 couple. Money received \$5,200. Card granted.

Rev. Carl Creasy, pastored Murphy's Chapel Church, conducted 1 communion service, had conferences, assisted in 1 revival, witnessed 6 rededications, conducted 2 funerals, miles traveled 1,600, money received \$5,400. Card granted.

Rev. Greg Eaton, pastored Adamsville Church, held 2 revivals, baptized 1, held 2 funerals, married 1 couple, 1 communion service, money received \$8,700.00. Card granted.

Rev. James Flatt, filled in for several pastors, visited several churches, 55 sermons, witnessed 1 profession, preached at Lane Chapel every 4th Sunday, preached at Mount Vinson Methodist Church every 5th Sunday, miles traveled 775, money received \$1,350. Card granted.

Rev. V. H. Gean, Gave oral report. Has lifetime card.

Rev. Vernon Gober, Gave report as associational pastor. Has lifetime card.

Rev. Tim Hanback, preached 180 sermons, pastored 1 church, held 9 revivals, witnessed 11 professions, baptized 3, added 13 to the church, held 6 funerals, married 2 couples, money received \$12,450. Card granted.

Rev. Carlos Hughes, sermons preached 52, pastored 1 church, held 3 funerals, married 1 couples, miles traveled 6,000. Card granted.

Rev. Charles Linam, pastored Meeks Grove Church, assisted in 1 revival, conducted 4 funerals, baptized 2, added 4 to the church, held 4 communion services. Card granted.

Rev. Keith Montgomery, preached 110 sermons, held 2 revivals, assisted in 2 revivals, held 1 communion service, witnessed 8 professions, baptized 9, held 3 funerals, married 2 couple, traveled 2,400 miles, money received \$5,750.00. Card granted.

Rev. Virgil Moore, Gave oral report. Has lifetime card.

Rev. Marvin Morrow, pastored Solitude Church, held 1 revival, assisted in 7 revivals, held 4 communion services, held 4 funerals, married 2 couples, miles traveled unknown, money received \$10,700.00. Card granted.

Rev. Earl Rich, pastored Mill Rock Church, baptized 7, held 5 revivals, conducted 2 funerals, married 2 couples, conducted 3 communion services, money received approx. \$8,000.00. Card granted.

Rev. Jimmy Shields, pastored New Pleasant Grove Church, held 1 communion service, witnessed 1 rededications, baptized 1, received 1 into church, held 1 revival, held 1 revival at church, held 4 funerals, assisted in 3 funerals, held 1 conference. Money received \$6,265.00. Card granted.

Rev. Dalton Skaggs, preached 46 sermons, pastored Rayborn Chapel Church, assisted in 1 revival, conducted 3 funerals, miles traveled 2,000, money received \$1,250.0. Card granted.

Rev. Edward Smith, Gave oral report. Has lifetime card.

SATURDAY NIGHT WORSHIP SERVICE

Song Led by	Bro. Charles Moore
Prayer by	Bro. George Stricklin
Special singing by	Rev. Paul Childers, Bro. Doyle Jenkins, Bro. Don Bricker, Sis. Teresa Martin and Bro. Alan Gober.
1 st Message by	Rev. Jeremy Holt
Scripture	Hebrews 10:37-38, Luke 17:1-6, 1 Cor. 13:2
Subject	Increase Our Faith
2 nd Message by	Rev. Chad Balentine
Scripture	Daniel 3:16-28, Hebrews 12:1
Subject	We Are an Example
Dismissed by	Bro. Joe Hanback

RESOLUTION OF THANKS

We, the committee of Resolution of thanks, wish to thank God for allowing us to meet in love and fellowship.

We wish to thank Solitude Church and all the surrounding churches for the wonderful hospitality, friendliness and kindness shown to the entire Association as a whole.

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

May God bless and keep each of us until we meet again in the next Associational meeting.

Sis. Carolyn Wilson, Chairperson

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE

Song Led by	Bro. Charles Moore
Prayer by	Bro. Alan Gober
Offering for Children's Home Taken by	Bro. Greg Martin
1 st Message by	Rev. Junior Overstreet
Scripture	Luke 13:22-28
Subject	Strive to Enter In
2 nd Message by	Rev. Marcus Morrow
Scripture	Gen. 22:6-13
Subject	Have Faith in God
Dismissed	Rev. Dalton Skaggs

**MINUTES OF THE FIFTH SUNDAY WEEKEND MEETING
CONVENED WITH SHADY GROVE FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH
OCTOBER 29 & 30, 1999**

Friday Evening Session

The service began with singing led by Rev. Carlos Hughes. Devotion was led by Bro. Herschel Copeland from John 4:13-39. The message was delivered by Rev. Jack Jones.

Saturday Morning Session

Service began with singing led by Herschel Copeland followed with prayer led by Rev. Dalton Skaggs. Rev. Carlos Hughes welcomed everyone. The first message was delivered by Rev. Jimmy McGee reading from Ephesians 4:21&24 with the subject "I Hope You Have Heard Him." The second message was delivered by Rev. Charles Linam reading from Galatians 6:6-9 with the subject "Why Do We Get Discouraged." Dismissed by Rev. Edward Smith.

Saturday Afternoon Session

Service began with singing led by Bro. Alan Gober. Moderator Rev. Jimmy Shields extended a welcome to everyone. The message was delivered by Rev. Vernon Gober reading from Romans 1:15-22 with the subject "The Power of God".

Presbytery Session

Moderator Rev. Jimmy Shields called the meeting to order assisted by Rev. Charles Linam in Rev. James Flatt's absence. There were 12 churches represented, 13 ordained ministers, and 1 ordained deacon. Minutes from the previous session were read and approved. The Executive Committee presented a letter from Roden Church asking to be dismissed from the Association. The Moderator explained the situation and discussion ensued. The letter was accepted and approved. The Executive Committee drew up a letter called the Tennessee River Association ordination agreement. The letter was read by Rev. Vernon Gober. The letter dealt with issues of questionable living, after much discussion the motion was made to accept the letter and motion carried. The moderator read a letter from Plummers Chapel stating that 3 Men had been placed under the watch care of the church for the office of Deacon. After no further business the motion was made to adjourn. Ministers and deacons present were; Rev. Jimmy Shields, Rev. Paul Childers, Rev. Charles Linam, Rev. Marvin Morrow, Rev. Virgil Gean, Rev. Earl Rich, Rev. Benton Brown, Rev. Vernon Gober, Rev. Edward Smith, Rev. Keith Montgomery, Rev. Dalton Skaggs, Rev. Tim Hanback, Rev. Carlos Hughes and Bro. Jimmy Lambert.

Saturday Evening Service

Service was opened with singing led by Bro. Alan Gober followed with prayer led by Bro. Buddy Melson. The message was delivered from Titus 2:1-8. Dismissed by Bro. Lem Hanback.

**MINUTES OF THE FIFTH SUNDAY WEEKEND MEETING
CONVENED WITH SOLITUDE FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH
JANUARY 28 & 29, 2000**

Canceled because of bad weather.

**MINUTES OF THE FIFTH WEEKEND MEETING
CONVENED WITH NEW CHAPEL FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH
APRIL 28 & 29, 2000**

Friday Evening Service

The service began with singing led by Rev. Paul Childers. Rev. John E. Banks delivered the first message reading from II Kings 4:31-32. The second message was delivered by Rev. Paul Childers reading from John 21:15-23. Service dismissed by Rev. Vernon Gober.

Saturday Morning Service

Service opened with singing led by Rev. Paul Childers. Rev. Earl Rich delivered the first message reading from Matthew 15:21-28 with the title "The Power of Humility." The second message was delivered by Rev. Jimmy Shields reading from Psalm 51:10 entitled "Clean Heart; Right Spirit." Dismissed by Rev. Edward Smith.

Saturday Afternoon Service

Service began with singing and prayer. Rev. Chad Balentine delivered the message reading from Genesis 6:7-8.

Presbytery Session

Moderator Rev. Jimmy Shields called the meeting to order. There were 11 churches represented, 12 ordained ministers, 1 licensed minister, 3 ordained deacons and 1 deacon under the watch care of the church present. The minutes from the previous meeting were read and approved. Under new business, the suggestion was made to have a Sunday School teacher's conference with Dr. Charles Thigpen leading it. This suggestion was tabled until the July meeting. The program committee was selected for the next quarterly meeting. With there being no further business motion was made to adjourn. Ministers and deacons present were Rev. Earl Rich, Rev. Vernon Gober, Rev. Edward Smith, Rev. Keith Montgomery, Rev. John E. Banks, Rev. Marvin Morrow, Rev. Tim Hanback, Rev. Virgil Gean, Rev. Charles Linam, Rev. Benton Brown, Rev. Dalton Skaggs, Rev. Jimmy Shields, Rev. Chad Balentine, (deacons) Bro. J.W. Stooksberry, Bro. Stancil Robbins, Bro. Andy Moore and Bro. Billy Pinson.

Saturday Evening Service

The service began with singing and prayer. For the youth portion of the service a puppet show ministered to the congregation. Rev. Tim Hanback delivered the message. Dismissed with prayer.

**MINUTES OF THE FIFTH SUNDAY WEEKEND MEETING
CONVENED WITH PINEY GROVE FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH
JULY 28 & 29, 2000**

Friday Evening Session

The service began with singing led by Bro. Lem Hanback and prayer led by Rev. V.H. Gean. Rev. Marvin Morrow delivered the first message reading from Ephesians 6:10-19 entitled "Being Able to Stand." The Second message was delivered by Rev. Chad Balentine reading from Matthew 16:13-16 entitled "Confessing Christ." Service dismissed with prayer.

Saturday Morning Session

The service began with singing and prayer. The first message was delivered by Rev. Benton Brown. The second message delivered by Rev. James Flatt.

Saturday Afternoon Session

The service began with singing led by Rev. Keith Montgomery. The message was delivered by Rev. Carlos Hughes reading from II Peter 3:1.

Presbytery Session

The meeting was called to order by the moderator Rev. Jimmy Shields with Rev. James Flatt assisting. There were 10 churches, 14 ordained ministers, 6 deacons, 2 deacons under the watch care of the church present. Minutes were read from the previous session and approved. Under old business discussion continued on the subject of the Sunday School conference. It was decided to have separate meetings. One at New Chapel and one at Piney Grove with dates to be decided. The Executive Committee presented three recommendations. The first being to raise the associational pastors salary to allow for the increase in the cost of living. This was tabled until the next meeting. The second being that all youth director names and phone numbers be listed in the minutes. Motion made and approved each church to be responsible for sending in said information. The third being that the presbytery adopts Roberts Rules of Order for each meeting and each member receiving a book. It was decided to check into the prices of the books before moving on the recommendation. All officers of the presbytery were reelected for another term. The Quarterly meetings were placed for the following year. October 2000 - Plimmers Chapel, December 2000 - Scott's Chapel, April 2001 - Piney Grove, July 2001 - New Pleasant Grove. After no further business meeting was adjourned.

Saturday Evening Service

The service began with singing. The youth group performed special singing. Rev. Greg Eaton delivered the message. Service dismissed.

Associational Table

	By Baptism	By Letter	By Experience	Restored	Dismissed By Letter	Withdrawn	Deceased	Membership	Sunday School	Avg. Attendance	Deacons	Ordained Ministers	Licensed Ministers	Church Value	Amount Paid Pastor	Pastoral Help	Home Missions	Minute Fund	Children's Homes	Meeting Days
Adamsville	1						1	67	67	41	3	4		125,000.00	8,250.00	320.00	150.00	50.00	500.00	
Bumpus Creek								114	30	36	1	1		45,000.00	2,940.00	300.00	150.00	50.00		
Meeks Grove	4						1	152	55	55	2	2		150,000.00		500.00	100.00	50.00		
Midway	2	1	2	3	1		2	107	45	40	3			110,000.00	9,020.00	900.00	150.00	50.00	400.00	Every Sunday and Sunday Night
Murphy's Chapel							1	45	31	35		2		130,000.00	5,100.00	425.00	50.00	25.00	110.00	
New Chapel		1	3	5		13	2	96	35	50	1	1		155,000.00	5,200.00	690.00	150.00	50.00	773.00	Every Sunday and Sunday Night
New Pleasant Grove	1					4	5	38	25	40				125,000.00	5,875.00	425.00	150.00	50.00		
Piney Grove	4	4					1	213	113	79	4	5	1	125,000.00	5,720.00	1025.00	150.00	50.00	3,740.30	Every Sunday and Sunday Night, Sat. Night before 2nd Sunday
Plummer's Chapel	3		5	1				33	41	41	3	1	1	100,000.00	6,500.00		150.00	25.00		
Rayborn Chapel					2			25	19	17	1			10,000.00	1,056.90	100.00	16.50	50.00		
Scotts Chapel	1	9	3		1		3	150	141	116	5	1		125,000.00	9,100.00	800.00	100.00	50.00	5,631.35	Every Sunday & Sunday Night, Wednesday Night
Shady Grove								24	10	22	1	1		25,000.00		300.00	150.00	50.00		
Solitude	4				2	3	3	80	125	91	3	1		195,000.00	9,650.00	1000.00	150.00	25.00		Every Sunday & Sunday Night
Whites Creek					1			101	70	53	1			65,000.00	5,000.00	650.00	100.00	50.00	250.00	

THE CONSTITUTION

Article 1. The association shall be called the Tennessee River Association of Free Will Baptist, 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 delegate 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 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 or 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 or 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 being 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.

18. The Associational Pastor shall be elected each year, and be paid from the Home Mission Fund as the Home Mission Board sees fit. He shall fill in where needed, look for places to organize new churches, and assist with other ministers in mission work.

19. Any man believing he is called of God to preach should notify the church of which he is a member. The church by approval of its membership should bring this request before the presbytery.

20. All candidates for ordination and those to be licensed for a minister will be examined by council. If approved, licenses shall be for a period of one year. The examination for license or ordination should refer to the piety and doctrine, conviction and purpose, respecting work for the ministry, reputation of character, and ability of the candidate.

21. Any ordained minister coming from other Free Will Baptist Associations who desire to unite with this association, should first join a church in this association, then be examined by the presbytery. If he brings a good recommendation from the association of which he is a member, believes and practices Free Will Baptist doctrine, he be granted a card.

22. Any minister coming from a body other than Free Will Baptist, should join a church in this association and remain a member for one year. If at that time the church so desires, he be examined to be licensed for one year.

23. Any man desiring the office of deacon and qualifying according to the scriptures should be appointed to the watch care of their church for one year, and notify the association of such an appointing. At the end of one year, they will be examined by council for ordination.

24. All ministers and deacons shall be given a certificate of ordination when ordained. When leaving the association, they shall be given a letter at their request stating their standing with the association at the time of departure. Upon resignation or leaving the denomination, they shall turn in their credentials.

25. All members shall abstain from strong drink, beer, whiskey or any drug harmful to the body. They shall support the Free Will Baptist doctrine and practice its ordinances.

26. All members shall support the association. If any church calls a pastor not in a Free Will Baptist presbytery, his name shall not appear in the minutes. All churches shall send its letter to the association on Friday after being approved by its membership.

27. Any church having a problem that cannot be worked out should contact the chairman of the resolution committee. If necessary, a called session of the presbytery shall be held at the church.

28. An ordained minister shall be eligible to receive a lifetime card from this association provided that he has served the association in this capacity for a period of at least thirty (30) years continuous, or if he should become unable to carry the gospel because of a physical condition.

29. All ordained ministers eligible to receive a lifetime card shall be subject to an annual review as to their conduct as a member of the presbytery. If such conduct

is not found in good standing by the committee and the full presbytery, the card shall be null and void.

30. The annual review of lifetime cards shall be conducted by a committee of three (3) ordained ministers in a manner as they shall see fit. The committee shall be nominated from the floor and members shall be eligible to serve no more than two (2) years consecutively. At least two of the three committee members shall have served fifteen (15) years or more consecutively in this body, and no more than one (1) committee members shall be eligible to receive a lifetime card.

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 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 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 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; feet washing is an ordinance teaching humility or universal obligation, and they be administered to all true believers.

14. The Christian Sabbath - the divine law requires that one day in seven be set apart from secular employments and amusements, for rest, worship, holy works and activities and for personal communion with God.

15. Resurrection, Judgement 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 to eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal live."

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.

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 DISMISSAL

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

QUESTIONS FOR ORDINATION

1. How long have you been a Free Will Baptist?
2. Give a short account of your calling.
3. Do you meet the qualifications of First Timothy 3:1-7?
4. Have you or your wife ever been divorced?
5. What is your attitude toward intoxicating beverages, tobacco, drugs or worldly amusement?
6. Do you believe without reservation that the Bible is the verbally inspired, infallible word of God and it is the only rule of faith and practice?
7. Explain your view on Baptism.
8. What is the meaning of the Lord's Supper?
9. Should feet washing be observed? Explain.
10. What do you believe about apostasy and the perseverance of the believer?
11. What are the duties of your calling?
12. What is the mission of the Church in light of Matt. 28:19-20?

GUIDELINES FOR SCHOLARSHIP

1. One \$500.00 scholarship will be granted each year, with everyone required to reapply every year.
2. All applicants must either be a member of the Tennessee River Association or with the Children's Home that the Association supports.
3. The scholarship will be awarded based on financial need and grade average.
4. The applicant must pursue a study in a religious field.
5. The Freewill Baptist Bible College will make the final decision in the case of more than one applicant.
6. The deadline to apply is January 1 for the following fall semester.
7. The scholarship will apply to the Freewill Baptist Bible College in Nashville, TN only.

FORM OF RECEIVING MEMBERS IN CHURCH

In as much as you present yourself for admission into the church of the Free Will Baptist in Christ, we rejoice with you that through the grace of God you have been brought to a knowledge of the truth and have been made partakers of the great salvation. The privileges you seek are above price and the duties enjoined are so solemn, it is proper, that you publicly confess your faith and vow your purpose by answering the following questions:

1. Q. Did you find yourself a sinner in the sight of God?
A. I Did.
2. Q. And you now believe that God has for Christ's sake pardoned and forgiven all your sins?
A. I Do.
3. Q. And your desire is to become a member of the Free Will Baptist at this place?
A. Yes, Sir.
4. Q. Are you willing to be governed by our church rules?
A. Yes, Sir.
5. Q. Are you willing to contribute to the support of the gospel as God prospers you?
A. I Am.
6. Q. Do you believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, and do you accept Him as your personal Saviour?
A. I Do.
7. Q. Do you believe the whole Bible is infallibly true, and are you willing to take the authorized King James Version, as your guide, to live by?
A. Yes, Sir.
8. Q. Do you believe in free and open communion? Let a man examine himself according to I Corinthians 11:28. Also in washing of the saints' feet, according to St. John 13?
A. I Do.
9. Q. Have you been baptized by immersion, in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Ghost, according to St. Matthew 28:19?

A. _____

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 \$ _____, minutes funds \$ _____.

Moderator _____ Address _____

Clerk _____ Address _____

Savannah, TN

US Hwy. 64

New
Pleasant
Grove
Church

Freewill Lane

Airport Road

2.1 miles

2.6 miles

TN Hwy. 69

To
Florence, AL



