

UNION
ASSOCIATION
OF FREE WILL
BAPTIST
MINUTES
2020

2020
ANNUAL MINUTES

of the
95th SESSION

of the

UNION ASSOCIATION
of
GEORGIA
FREE WILL BAPTISTS

Quarterly Sessions met at:

New Hope Church, February 8, 2020

New Prospect Church, November 14, 2020

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Session shall be opened with prayer
2. Church Letters are to be called for and the name of the delegates read.
3. There is to be a call for Petitionary Letters.
4. Visiting brethren are to be welcomed.
5. There is to be a call for Corresponding Messengers.
6. Committee Appointments:
 - a. Digest Committee
 - b. Finance Committee
 - c. Nominating Committee
7. Miscellaneous Business
8. Unfinished Business
9. Reports of Committees
10. Session shall be opened for announcements
11. Session shall be adjourned with prayer

NOTE: Every two (2) years (odd calendar years) there shall be an election of Moderator, Assistant Moderator, Clerk, Assistant Clerk, and Parliamentarian at the conclusion of the Annual Session.

2021 ASSOCIATION CALENDER

Poulan Church.....February 13, 2021
Spring Hill Church.....May 8, 2021
Sylvester Church.....August 14, 2021
Bay Church.....November 13, 2021

UNION ASSOCIATION BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Rev. Randy Jackson, Moderator	2021
Rev. Chuck Scarborough, Assistant Moderator	2021
Rev. Kirk Lavender, Clerk/Treasurer	2021
Rev. Wilbur Harris, Assistant Clerk/Treasurer	2021
Rev. Stuart Bundy, Mission Board Chairman	
Rev. Charles Blanton, Ordaining Board Chairman	
Rev. Eric Mitchell, Retirement Board Chairman	
Rev. Kirk Lavender, Youth Board Chairman	
Mr. Virgil Holloway, Parliamentarian	2021

MISSION BOARD

Rev. Charles McCardle	2021
Rev. Stuart Bundy, Chairman	2022
Rev. Eric Mitchell	2023
Rev. Wilbur Harris	2024
Rev. Charles Blanton	2025

ORDAINING BOARD

Rev. Charles Blanton, Chairman	2021
Rev. Charles McCardle	2022
Rev. Wilbur Harris	2023
Rev. Chuck Scarborough	2024
Rev. Herbert Waid	2025

RETIREMENT BOARD

Rev. Eric Mitchell, Chairman	2021
Mr. John Himioben	2022
Mr. Virgil Holloway	2023

Rev. S.E. Newberry	2024
Mr. Ike Davis	2025

YOUTH BOARD

Rev. Stuart Bundy	2021
Mr. Adam Lavender	2022
Rev. Kirk Lavender, Chairman	2023
Mrs. Kirsten Kleedehn	2024
Mrs. Dorothy Hardin	2025

PARLIAMENTARIAN

Mr. Virgil Holloway	2021
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SONG LEADERS

Rev. S.E. Newberry	2021
Rev. Wilbur Harris, Assistant	2021

PIANIST

Mrs. Sherrill Barge	2021
Mrs. Louvenia Kleedehn, Assistant	2021

REPRESENTATIVES TO GEORGIA STATE BOARDS

Board of Camping – Rev. Wilbur Harris	2021
Board of Christian Education-Rev. Randy Jackson	2023
Board of Missions – Rev. S.E. Newberry	2021
Board of trustees – Rev. Chuck Scarborough	2023

DIRECTORY OF PASTORS AND CLERKS

BAY CHURCH, Colquitt County

Rev. S.E. Newberry
776 Lewis Lane
Quincy, FL 32352
850-856-5669

Mrs. Robin Shivers
444 Walter Norman Rd.
Hartsfield, GA 31756
229-941-2630

BETHLEHEM CHURCH, Colquitt County

Rev. Stuart Bundy
496 Old Doerun Rd.
Sale City, GA 31784
229-336-8021 (cell 347-9203)

Mr. Tim Whitman
P.O. Box 405
Berlin, GA 31722
229-798-2015

CAIRO, FIRST CHURCH, Grady County

Rev. Eric Mitchell
283 Woodland Rd.
Cairo, GA 39827
229-327-4385

Mrs. Glenda Bell
357 Rawls Rd.
Cairo, GA 39828
229-377-8820

FELLOWSHIP CHURCH, Worth County

Rev. Herbert Waid
P.O. Box 1844
Moultrie, GA 31776
229-985-5479 (cell 873-0620)
e-mail: blessed@moultriega.net

Mrs. Geraldine Waid
P.O. Box 1844
Moultrie, GA 31776
229-985-5479

GREENWOOD CHURCH, Mitchell County

Rev. S.E. Newberry
776 Lewis Lane
Quincy, FL 32352
850-661-0065

Mr. Jake Singleton
82 Williford Dr.
Camilla, GA 31730
229-336-5582

MIDWAY CHURCH, Colquitt County

Rev. Randy Jackson
2561 Lower Meigs Rd.
Moultrie, GA 31768

229-941-4063 (cell 873-1249)

E-mail: randyjackson1220@windstream.net

Mrs. Cindy S. Harvin
175 Ragin Rd.
Moultrie, GA 31768
229-985-0117

NEW HOPE CHURCH, Colquitt County

Rev. Chuck Scarborough
1317 Erve Williams Rd.
Moultrie, GA 31768
229-941-2155 (cell 456-2306)

Mrs. Betty Barnes
2628 US Hwy 319 S
Coolidge, GA 31738
229-891-5075

NEW PROSPECT CHURCH, Turner County

Rev. Kirk Lavender
1508 Maude Williams Rd.
Ashburn, GA 31714
229-567-3743 (cell 947-2118)
E-mail: kirklav@windstream.net

Mrs. Ann Lavender
157 Cutoff Rd.
Ashburn, GA 31714
229-567-0123

POULAN CHURCH, Worth County

Rev. Charles McCardle
727 Morey Rd.
Albany, GA 31705
229-349-0739

Mr. Larry S. Waltman
1072 PT Salter Rd.
Poulan, GA 31781
229-881-3204

SPRING HILL CHURCH, Mitchell County

Rev. Charles Blanton
12143 GA Hwy 93
Baconton, GA 31716
22-449-5138

Mrs. Denna Jones
9810 Morey Hill Rd.
Albany, GA 31705
229-787-5137

SYLVESTER CHURCH, Worth County

Rev. Wilbur Harris
103 Water Ln.
Sylvester, GA 31791
229-776-1900

Mrs. Glenda Gibbs
155 Oakland Heights Rd.
Sylvester, GA 31791
229-777-9739

Email: gibbs99739@bellsouth.net

ROLL OF ORDAINED MINISTERS

Rev. Charles Blanton

Rev. Stuart Bundy

Rev. Wilbur Harris

Rev. Randy Jackson

Rev. Charles Lasseter

Rev. Kirk Lavender

Rev. Charles McCardle

Rev. Eric Mitchell

Rev. S.E. Newberry

Rev. Chuck Scarborough

Rev. Herbert Waid

Rev. R.C. Wiggins

Spring Hill Church

Bethlehem Church

Sylvester Church

Midway Church

New Prospect Church

Poulan Church

Cairo, First Church

Bay and Greenwood Churches

New Hope Church

Fellowship Church

ROLL OF DEACONS

BAY CHURCH

Alex Shivers

444 Walter Norman Rd., Hartsfield, GA 31756

CAIRO, FIRST CHURCH

Kelvin Harrell

1338 Woodland Rd., Cairo, GA 39827

Ronnie Bell

357 Rawls Rd., Cairo, GA 39828

FELLOWSHIP CHURCH

Clint Hardin

6023 James Dr, Albany, GA 31705

Virgil Holloway

251 Park Place Rd, Albany, GA 31705

GREENWOOD CHURCH

Jake Singleton

82 Williford Dr, Camilla, GA 31730

MIDWAY CHURCH

Darrell Gay

207 Walter Murphy Rd, Moultrie, GA 31768

Roscoe Gay

2560 Lower Meigs Rd, Moultrie, GA 31768

Art Harvin

175 Ragin Rd, Moultrie, GA 31768

Wayne R. Lacey

235 Walter Murphy Rd, Moultrie, GA 31768

Brady Mercer

594 McElroy Rd, Moultrie, GA 31768

Sean Sauls

29 Ridge Rd, Moultrie, GA 31768

Mark Scheuring

490-A Tree Farm Rd, Moultrie, GA 31768

Richard Spears

443 Sauls Rd, Moultrie, GA 31768

NEW PROSPECT CHURCH

Bruce Burgess

2352 Coverdale Hwy, Ashburn, GA 31714

Adam Lavender

1174 Maude Williams Rd, Ashburn, GA 31714

POULAN CHURCH

Hal Ivey	891 S Sumner Rd, Sumner, GA 31789
Jack D. Powell	335 Old Mail Rd, Sylvester, GA 31791
Wayne Carlton	468 Northwood Dr, Poulan, GA 31781
Larry S. Waltman	1072 P.T. Salter Rd, Poulan GA 31781

SPRING HILL CHURCH

Leonard Bundy	495 Old Doerun Rd, Sales City, GA 31784
Glenn Etheredge	6027 Jenkins Rd, Albany, GA 31705
Frank Hall	6210 Hummingbird Rd, Camilla, GA 31730

SYLVESTER CHURCH

J.W. Gibbs	155 Oakland Heights Rd., Sylvester, GA 31791
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<p>ADDRESSES AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS NOT LISTED ELSEWHERE</p>

Mrs. Dorothy Hardin	6023 James Dr, Albany, GA 31705 229-435-5016
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Mrs. Kirsten Saunders	309 Faison Rd, Hartsfield, GA 31756 229-941-2117
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Rev. R.C. Wiggins	156 Walter Murphy Rd, Moultrie, GA 31768 229-529-4185
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Rev. Charles Lasseter	1685 Moye Rd, Norman Park, GA 31771 407-624-1955
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PHYSICAL ADDRESSES OF CHURCHES

Bay Free Will Baptist Church

GA Hwy 37

Moultrie, GA 31768

Bethlehem Free Will Baptist Church

GA Hwy 133

Berlin, GA 31722

Cairo, First Free Will Baptist Church

7th Ave NE

Cairo, GA 39828

Fellowship Free Will Baptist Church

103 Groveland Dr

Albany, GA 31705

Greenwood Free Will Baptist Church

Greenwood Rd

Camilla, GA 31730

Midway Free Will Baptist Church

287 Lower Meigs Rd

Moultrie, GA 31768

New Hope Free Will Baptist Church

US Hwy 319 S

Moultrie, GA 31768

New Prospect Free Will Baptist Church

5000 Canon Rd

Ashburn, GA 31714

Poulan Free Will Baptist Church

280 East Church Street

Poulan, GA 31781

Sylvester, First Free Will Baptist Church

Carmen Ln

Sylvester, GA 31791

UNION ASSOCIATION STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 2020

Church	Active Members	Sunday School	CTS	WAC	Master's Men	Property Value
Bay	17					432,000
Bethlehem	45	25	25			
Cairo 1 st	39	30				220,000
Fellowship	19	8		5	3	160,000
Greenwood	5					
Midway	130	65	50	13		1,000,000
New Hope	5					
New Prospect	35	25	20	17		
Poulan	30					
Spring Hill	20	30	20	4	4	145,000
Sylvester	10			5	3	
Totals	355	183	115	44	10	1,957,000
2019 Totals	436	228	120	37	10	2,657,322
2019 compared to 2020	-81	-45	-5	+7	0	-700,322

UNION ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS

1st Quarter Meeting

February 8, 2020 at the New Hope Church

Our meeting opened with the congregation singing, "Freely, Freely", led by our song leader, Brother S.E. Newberry. Rev. Charles McCardle then led us in prayer. The Moderator welcomed everyone to the meeting, followed by the host pastor greeting everyone and giving directions and instructions for the church. The moderator then introduced our speaker for the morning devotion, which was Debbie Griffin, missionary to Japan. Her main text came from Proverbs 3:5-6. She gave a great testimony of how God has impacted her throughout her life here upon this earth. He first gave her a vision for missions in her seventh-grade year of school, when she first met some missionaries. God then worked on her throughout her college years at the bible college in Tennessee. It was not always easy, and she did not always understand, but she knew that God had called her to the mission field. Debbie also told us of how God had called her home to take care of her mother. Now God has called her back to the mission field once again and she is very excited to go once again to Japan and share the gospel with someone who does not know Christ.

The Digest Report was given by Mrs. Kirsten Kleedehn

Churches Reporting	11
Delegates	17
Deacons	2
Ministers	8
Visitors	<u>9</u>
Total	36

There was a motion and second made to receive the report and it carried.

The moderator then recognized the ministers and deacons as standing delegates. After, that, the churches elected delegates were recognized. There was a motion and second made to seat the delegates and it carried.

The clerk then read the Executive Committee Report. There was a motion made and a second to receive the report and it carried.

The Moderator appointed a Finance Committee for the day. They were: Mr. John Himioben; Chairperson, Mrs. Catherine Tomlinson, and Mrs. Betty Lewis.

The morning offering was then taken up; Rev. S.E. Newberry and Mr. Virgil Holloway volunteered as ushers and Rev. S.E. Newberry led in prayer.

STATE BOARD REPORTS: Camping Board: Rev. Wilbur Harris informed us that the camping board had met on January 30, 2020. After all the expenses were paid from camp this past year the finances came out to a positive \$33.04. He also gave us the dates for the 2020 summer camp which will be, June 21-26 for teen camp and June 28 – July 2 for junior camp. Mike McClintock will be camp director this year. There was a motion made and a second to receive the report and it carried. Christian Education: Rev Randy Jackson gave the report as follows: The couples retreat will be February 28 & 29, 2020; Brother Eddie Moody will be the speaker. The State youth competition will be held at the Albany Church on May 2, 2020. The National Convention will be in Oklahoma this year.

There was a motion made and a second to receive the report as information and it carried. Mission Board: Rev. S.E. Newberry gave the report as follows: There has not been a meeting, but he asked us to continue to pray for the Tifton mission work and for other needed mission work across our state. There was a motion made and a second to receive the report as information and it carried.

DISTRICT BOARD REPORTS: Ordaining Board: Rev. Herbert Waid asked everyone with the utmost importance to pray for laborers to be accept the call into the ministry. Retirement Board: Mr. Ike Davis presented 2 items of business from the retirement board as follows: The retirement board has received a letter from the Bethlehem Church asking for the late Rev. James Sellers retirement funds to be sent to his widow Sister Frances Sellers. The retirement board recommends an amount of \$150.00 per quarter. After the clerk read the letter to the association, the moderator then asked for a move and second to approve the request, after that, he called for a vote and it was approved. The next item of business presented by the board was that every minister that signs up with the Union Association retirement board, whether they are already a part of the National Retirement Program or signing up for the National Retirement Program, will get \$500.00 put into their retirement account as a sign on bonus. The minister has to be a member of the Union Association and he has to sign up before the end of this association year. This \$500.00 bonus will be in addition to the annual contribution that will be determined by the retirement board. The moderator then asked for a move and second, after that, he called for a vote and it was approved. Youth Board Report: Rev. Kirk Lavender informed us that the Walk A Thon was a great success this year. The youth board has been doing Miles for Missions for 15 years. He also recognized Sister Kirsten Kleedehn for all her faithful years of serving as chairperson of the Youth Board. This

year we raised a total of \$4,968.00. This money will be given to Debbie Griffin as a personal love offering from the Union Association. A motion made and a second to receive the report and it carried.

The Finance Committee Report was given by Mr. John Himioben as follows:

General Fund Balance	\$2,107.25
Quarterly Dues Collected	\$1,071.00
Offering	\$ 258.00
Money Designated	\$2,000.00
Youth Fund Balance	\$4,571.72
Minister's retirement Balance	\$10,596.56

The offering was designated to go into Debbie Griffin's mission account. There was a motion and second made and it carried to receive the report.

The moderator then called for any miscellaneous business. The moderator called for volunteers to be elected for delegates to represent the Union Association at the State Meeting which will be in Albany, GA this year. Mrs. Celia Newberry and Mrs. Linda Lasseter volunteered to be delegates. The Moderator was also given the authority to appoint delegates at the State Meeting. There was a motion and second made and it carried.

After all business was completed, we gave a rising vote of thanks to the host church. We then took a short recess with refreshments provided by the host church.

Morning Worship Service

We began our morning worship service with our song leader leading us in the hymn, "Brethren, We Have Met To Worship." Debbie Griffin brought the special music, which was titled, "Only One Life." After the

music, Debbie Griffin gave the morning message. Her main text was from Matthew 14: 15-21, "The Feeding of the 5000." The bible tells us the people were in a desert place or desolate place. This desolate place represents many of the people in our world today, their heart is desolate and they are looking for a shepherd to lead them, they are as sheep that have gone astray. It was meal time and the people were getting hungry. The disciples wanted to send the people away, they didn't think it was their responsibility to feed the people. Jesus told them to feed the people. We are like the disciples were, we think is not our responsibility to tell others about Jesus, we leave it for someone else to do, but Jesus calls us to feed His sheep, to tell others about Him. We also have grown accustomed to having great abundance and we depend on what we have when it comes to doing the Lord's work and we forget to depend upon our Lord. After the message, we dismissed in prayer.

UNION ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING January 28, 2020

The Executive Committee met January 28, 2020 at J Harvey's Restaurant in Moultrie at 6:30 p.m. Those present were: Assistant Moderator, Rev. Chuck Scarborough; Clerk and Youth Board Chairman, Rev. Kirk Lavender; Assistant Clerk, Rev. Wilbur Harris; Ordaining Board Chairman, Rev. Herbert Waid; Retirement Board Chairman, Mr. Ike Davis. Also attending were Mrs. Geraldine Waid, Mrs. Judy Harris, Mrs. Kim Lavender, Ms. Mary Grace Lavender and Ms. Anna Lavender.

Rev. Wilbur Harris opened the meeting with a prayer of thanks for the meal.

After the meal, the assistant moderator asked the clerk to read the minutes from the previous meeting.

The moderator then asked for any reports from the board chairmen. Mr. Ike Davis informed us that the retirement board has two items of business that needed to be approved by the association at the next meeting. Rev. Kirk Lavender reported from the youth board. We had a good turnout at the January 25th Miles for Missions. So far there is a total of \$3,223.00 raised for Debbie Griffin.

Rev Wilbur Harris informed us that the state camp board will meet this Thursday, January 30, 2020.

After the reports, we then designated the offering taken up at the February 8th meeting go into Debbie Griffin's mission account.

There being no other business, our assistant moderator adjourned and dismissed us in prayer.

UNION ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS
2nd Quarter Meeting
Canceled due to COVID-19

UNION ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS
3rd Quarter Meeting
Canceled due to COVID-19

UNION ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS
4th Quarter Meeting
November 14, 2020 at the New Prospect Church

Our meeting opened with the congregation singing, "Trust and Obey", led by our assistant song leader, Brother Wilbur Harris. Rev. Chuck

Scarborough then led us in prayer. The Moderator welcomed everyone to the meeting. The moderator then introduced our speaker for the morning devotion, which was Rev. Kirk Lavender. His main text came from Malachi 3:1-6. The title of his devotion was, "Change." Even though in this world we experience all kinds of changes, both good and bad, we can rest confidently in God, know that He is the unchanging God. We learned two things from our devotion. (1) Because the world is uncertain and changeable, the unchangeable God can use that and refine, purify, and protect us that we will be confident, trusting and righteous even in the midst of an uncertain and evil land. (2) Because the world is uncertain and changeable, God can use us as His messengers, to show the world that He is the unchangeable God, the God that men place their trust in.

The Digest Report was given by Rev. Kirk Lavender

Churches present	6
Delegates	11
Deacons	2
Ministers	5
Visitors	<u>12</u>
Total	36

There was a motion and second made to receive the report and it carried.

The moderator then recognized the ministers and deacons as standing delegates. After, that, the churches elected delegates were recognized. There was a motion and second made to seat the delegates and it carried.

The clerk then read the Executive Committee Report. There was a motion made and a second to receive the report and it carried.

The Moderator appointed a Finance Committee for the day. They were: Mr. Ike Davis; Chairperson, Mrs. Cathy Tripp, and Mrs. Katrina Young.

The morning offering was then taken up; Rev. Chuck Scarborough and Rev. Wilbur Harris volunteered as ushers and Rev. Wilbur Harris led in prayer.

STATE BOARD REPORTS: There were no State board reports this time. Although, we did receive important information. Rev. Randy Jackson informed us that the couples retreat is still being promoted and he encouraged all the couples to attend. Sister Geraldine Waid gave us an update on Debbie Griffin. God has provided the funds for Debbie to return to Japan and she is very excited and ready to go as soon as she can get her visa to return to Japan.

DISTRICT BOARD REPORTS: Mission Board: Rev. Wilbur Harris informed us that we will probably be supporting Chris and Tori Sargent for our upcoming February missions conference. He also said that the mission board is working with the youth board about setting up the walk-a-thon in January. Ordaining Board: Rev. Herbert Waid asked everyone with the utmost importance to pray for laborers to accept the call into the ministry. Youth Board Report: Rev. Kirk Lavender conformed that the youth board was working with the mission board about setting up the walk-a-thon to raise funds for the Sargents. He also informed everyone that he would mail out the information sheet to each church for the walk-a-thon. A motion made and a second to receive the reports and it carried.

The Finance Committee Report was given by Mr. Ike Davis as follows:

General Fund Balance	\$3,132.65
Quarterly Dues Collected	\$1,065.00
Offering	\$ 163.00
Youth Fund Balance	\$1,359.72
Minister's retirement Balance	\$10,660.16

The offering was designated to go into the Sargent's mission account. There was a motion and second made and it carried to receive the report.

The Nominating Committee Report was given by Rev. Kirk Lavender. No major changes, everyone was replacing themselves on the boards and committees. There was a motion and second made and it carried to receive the report.

The moderator then asked to elect the slate of nominations from the nominating report. There was a motion and second made to elect the slate and it carried.

The clerk then read the obituary report for the year of 2019. After the report, Rev. Herbert Waid lead us in prayer as we remembered those who have moved on into eternity to be with their Lord.

The moderator then called for any miscellaneous business. There being no miscellaneous business or announcements, the moderator thanked everyone for their prayers and support through this year for his family and himself.

After all business was completed, we gave a rising vote of thanks to the host church. We then took a short recess with refreshments provided by the host church.

Morning Worship Service

We began our morning worship service with our moderator leading us in the hymn, "Victory In Jesus." Adam Lavender brought the special music, which was titled, "The Great Speckled Bird." After the music, Rev. Wilbur Harris gave the morning message. His main text was from 2 Peter 3. He asked everyone if they were prayed up and paid up. This is no time to be sad and gloomy, but a time to happy and joyful in the Lord. Many people have missed a lot of church, since this COVID-19 crisis. This is no time to be fearing, but a time to be trusting in the Lord. The Lord has an appointed time for everything, from the day of our deaths unto the return of the Lord Jesus. There is nothing we do to change that, and until His return, we are to be messengers, proclaiming His coming to a lost world. After the message, we dismissed in prayer.

UNION ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

October 27, 2020

The Executive Committee met October 27, 2020 at Midway Free Will Baptist Church in Moultrie at 6:30 p.m. Those present were: Moderator, Rev. Randy Jackson; Assistant Moderator, Rev. Chuck Scarborough; Clerk and Youth Board Chairman, Rev. Kirk Lavender; Assistant Clerk, Rev. Wilbur Harris; Ordaining Board Chairman, Rev. Herbert Waid; Retirement Board Chairman, Mr. Ike Davis. Also attending were Mrs. Kim Lavender, Ms. Mary Grace Lavender and Ms. Anna Lavender.

Rev. Chuck Scarborough opened our meeting with a prayer.

After the prayer, the moderator asked the clerk to read the minutes from the previous meeting.

The moderator then asked for any reports from the board chairmen. Rev. Randy Jackson informed us that the couples retreat was still being promoted In the State bulletin. Rev. Herbert Waid informed us

that Sister Debbie Griffin was approved to return to Japan and that she was setting on ready whenever they would let her back in the country. Because of the COVID crisis there was not much business to discuss since no board or committees have been meeting.

After the reports, we then proceeded to choose our speakers for the next meeting. We chose Rev. R.C. Wiggins for our devotion and Rev. Wilbur Harris for our main message.

There being no other business, our moderator adjourned and dismissed us in prayer.

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS
OF
UNION ASSOCIATION OF THE ORIGINAL
FREE WILL BAPTISTS OF GEORGIA

PREAMBLE

The object and purpose of the Union Association of Original Free Will Baptists of Georgia shall be to unify and strengthen the work of the various churches composing the association; and to devise and execute measures for the extension of the Kingdom of God.

ARTICLE I – NAME

This Association will hereafter be known as the Union Association of Original Free Will Baptists of Georgia.

ARTICLE II – CHURCH INDEPENDENT

Each church in the Association shall be considered an independent body and shall control its own internal affairs having the unrestricted right to administer its own government without supervision or interference, being under Christ, essentially independent and absolute.

ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP

Section 1

This Association shall be composed of the various Free Will Baptist Churches in good standing.

Section 2

When member churches or ministers, whether serving a church or not, shall absent themselves from the Association for three (3) consecutive quarterly meetings:

- (1) The Association Executive Committee shall investigate the church or churches and minister or ministers.
- (2) If a satisfactory report is not given of the church or churches and minister or ministers they shall be appraised of their standing, namely:
 - (a) Place on probation until the next quarterly meeting;
 - (b) No voting privileges until such church or churches and minister or ministers attend two (2) successive quarterly meetings, at which they would be reinstated as members in good standing.

ARTICLE IV – MEETINGS

This body shall meet alphabetically with the churches on the second Saturday in the following months: February, May, August, and November. This body shall not adjourn formally until all business is settled.

ARTICLE V – REPRESENTATION

Section 1

This body shall be composed of member churches in good standing and all ordained ministers, deacons, missionaries, and representatives of state boards shall be standing delegates.

Section 2

Each church represented at this Association shall be entitled to three elected delegates who are expected to attend.

Section 3

Each church shall send a report, using the form adopted by the Association.

Section 4

Each church shall be requested to pay a minimum fee of \$12.00 per active member, broken down on a quarterly basis of \$3.00 per active member. This fee shall include the annual church registration fee to the State Association for National Representation.

ARTICLE VI

OFFICERS, EXECUTIVE BOARD, STANDING BOARDS

Section 1

The officers of this Association shall be: Moderator, Assistant Moderator, Clerk-Treasurer, Assistant Clerk-Treasurer and Parliamentarian. They shall be elected for a two year term on odd calendar years.

Section 2

There shall be an Executive Board composed of the officers of this Association plus the Chairman of each Board.

Section 3

The standing board of this Association shall be the following: Mission Board, Ordaining Board, Retirement Board, and Youth Board. Each board shall consist of 5 members, each elected for a 5 year term on a rotating basis and shall be elected yearly as terms expire.

ARTICLE VII – RULES

This Association shall be conducted in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order.

ARTICLE VIII – AMENDMENTS

The constitution may be amended or altered at any regular session of the Association, by a 2/3 vote of the members present, provided that the proposed changes have been presented in writing, one conference in advance.

BY- LAWS

ARTICLE I – MEMBERSHIP

Section 1

All of the churches affiliated with this Association shall be required to adopt the Treatise of the Faith and Practice of the Free Will Baptists as adopted by the National Association. Applications for membership must contain a statement to this effect.

Section 2

Churches desiring to affiliate themselves with this Association must present a petitionary letter, and representation; adopt this Constitution and By-Laws, and conform to their usage.

ARTICLE II – DUTIES OF THE OFFICERS

Section 1

The duties of the moderator shall be to preside at all meetings of the Association. He shall be empowered to appoint any committee necessary; unless requested otherwise by the body itself.

Section 2

The duties of the Assistant Moderator shall be to preside at the request or in the absence of the moderator, and shall assist him in such ways as are necessary and advisable.

Section 3

The duties of the Clerk-Treasurer shall be to keep accurate minutes of the Association, to compile the minutes of the various boards and auxiliaries, to prepare and publish them. It shall further be the duty of the Clerk-Treasurer to take care of all necessary correspondence. He shall be in charge of offerings and to disburse them as directed by the Association.

Section 4

The duties of the Assistant Clerk-Treasurer shall be to assume the position of the Clerk-Treasurer in the event the Clerk-Treasurer is absent or unable to perform his duties.

Section 5

The duties of the Parliamentarian shall be to keep the association meetings in accordance with the rules of the parliamentary procedure as per the Robert's Rules of Order.

ARTICLE III – DUTIES OF THE BOARDS

Section 1 – Executive Board

It shall be the duties of the Executive Board to transact business for the Association when not in session. Decisions made by the Executive Board shall be subject to final approval by the Association and must be recorded in the minutes. The Executive Board may be called into session by the Moderator or Assistant Moderator if the need arises.

Section 2 – Mission Board

It shall be the duty of the Mission Board to supervise the missionary program of this Association, to solicit cooperation of churches and individuals, and to set up missionary conferences.

Section 3 – Ordaining Board

- A. The duty of this board shall be to examine candidates for the ministry according to the rules set forth by the ordination guidelines of the Georgia State Association of Free Will Baptists.
- B. THE GUIDELINES OF THE GEORGIA STATE ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS

1. THE LICENSED MINISTER:

A person must be licensed for the period of one year before he can be ordained. He must also be called to the care of one or more churches, or into other service which would require ordination.

2. QUALIFICATIONS OF MINISTERS

They must possess good, natural, and acquired abilities, deep and ardent piety, be especially called of God to the work, and ordained by prayer and the laying on of hands.

3. DUTIES OF MINISTERS:

These are to preach the Word, administer the ordinances of the Gospel, visit their people, and otherwise perform the work of faithful ministers.

4. THE QUESTION OF DIVORCE:

No individual shall be ordained to the gospel ministry who has been married and divorced, and in the process has more than one living companion. No individual shall be ordained whose wife has been previously married and divorced.

NOTE: These regulations are set forth to comply with the Biblical standard for ministers found in 1 Timothy 3:1-7.

5. MARRIAGE:

Marriage is a biblical institution established by God as clearly described in the scriptures. The Union Association of Free Will Baptists recognizes that marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman in covenant commitment for a lifetime.

Accordingly, this Association, its pastors, staff and members

will not participate in same sex unions or same sex marriages, nor shall its property or resources be used for such purposes.

6. THE ORDINATION OF WOMEN:

Traditionally and historically, Free Will Baptists in the State of Georgia have not ordained women to the gospel ministry. So far as we are able to discern, this is still the true sentiment over the state. Therefore, until the thinking of our Free Will Baptist constituency becomes more definitive on this matter, we do not purpose to ordain women.

7. THE AUTHORITY TO ORDAIN:

Free Will Baptists, committed to the doctrine of congregation church government, understand that the authority to ordain ministers is in the local church. In practice, however, the Free Will Baptist churches in the State of Georgia work together in the matter of ordination by delegating the authority for ordination to the association of churches in which the local church holds membership. The true source of this authority should never be lost sight of.

- C. An ordained minister coming to the Union Association from another denomination shall be placed on a one (1) year waiting period under the watch-care of this Association before being accepted into the Union Association.
- D. A minister coming to any church of the Union Association must be a member of that church and come before the Ordaining Council for questioning.

- E. When a person is called to the Gospel Ministry and desires to be licensed to preach, he shall approach his local church and request to be licensed. The church shall then examine him thoroughly as to the nature of his call, and request that the Ordaining Council examine the person before being licensed. At the recommendation of the Ordaining Council and after a vote in regular conference, he shall be granted a license to preach for a period of one year. At the end of one year, his license may be renewed, revoked or ordained. (The method mentioned here is the normal practice of most churches and associations.)
- F. No licentiate shall be ordained until he has been a licensed minister for the period of one year and called to the pastorate of one or more churches, or one who has become engaged in Christian service the nature of which requires the authority of an Ordained Minister of the Gospel.
- G. Each church should exercise due caution in licensing, commending to ordination, and calling of a minister to fill pastoral office.
- H. Ministers and/or churches not complying with the above rules shall be ruled out of fellowship with this Association.

Section 4 – Retirement Board

The Duties of the board shall be:

- A. To provide financial assistance to the ministers of the Union Association, who are enrolled in the National Retirement Program, under the direction of this board.

1. Qualifications of participating Ministers: All ministers participating in the National Retirement Program must be a minister in good standing with the Union Association for a period of at least one year.
2. This provision is voluntary and any minister participating forfeits future benefits listed in Section 4 Item B.
3. The board shall annually determine the eligibility and recommend to the association the amount of contribution.

B. To determine the eligibility of potential Retirement Fund receivers that have been recommended by their churches, and thereafter, to recommend the approval of the proposed quarterly allocation of these funds to the Union Association in session.

1. Qualifications of Retired Ministers:
 - i. If having obtained the age of sixty-five (65) years, and
 - ii. If having served a period of five (5) years, which the last three (3) have been with the Union Association and,
 - iii. If he is a member of and in good standing with one of our member churches and the Union Association, and
 - iv. If his church so recommends him, he may be considered.
2. Any minister who by accident or sickness has been rendered permanently unable to continue as a Minister of the Gospel, may be considered, provided he meets the qualifications as stated in the above paragraph B, numbers 2, 3 and 4.
3. A Minister's Widow may be considered if she is a member in good standing of a church that is a member of the Union Association and her church recommends her.
4. Each recipient shall receive the same amount of retirement funds (If any recipient's funds shall be raised or lowered, all recipient's funds shall be similarly adjusted.)
5. The Retirement Board shall regularly review all current cases to determine if the recipients are or are not in compliance with these guidelines.

Section 5 – Youth Board

- A. Plan and promote youth camp and all activities that go with the planning of said camp.
- B. Plan Associational Youth activities in order to promote fellowship among our youth.

ARTICLE IV – AMENDMENTS

These By-Laws may be amended or altered at any regular session of the Association by a 2/3 vote of the members present provided that the proposed changes have been presented in writing one conference in advance.

<h2>ASSOCIATION DECORUM</h2>

1. Any person wishing to speak shall rise and address the Moderator and be recognized before speaking. He shall confine himself to the question under consideration and avoid personalities.
2. No person can speak more than twice on any subject without permission from the Moderator.
3. Members wishing to be excused from the session shall request permission from the Moderator.
4. The Association has the right to decide what matters shall be admitted for its consideration.

ARTICLES OF FAITH

1. First, we believe that there is but on living, true, eternal God, the Father, of whom are all things from everlasting, glorious and immutable in all His attributes. 1 Corinthians 8:6; Isaiah 40:28.
2. We believe that there is one Lord Jesus Christ by whom are all things, the only begotten Son of God, born of the Virgin Mary, whom God freely sent into this world, because of the great love wherewith He loved the world, and Christ as freely gave Himself a ransom for all tasting death for every man, who was buried and rose again the third day and ascended back into Heaven, from whence we look for Him the second time in the clouds of Heaven at the last day, to judge both quick and dead. 1 Timothy 2:3-6; Hebrews 2:9; John 8; Acts 2:4; Ephesians 3:1; Ephesians 6.
3. We believe there is one Holy Ghost, the precious gift of the Father through His dear son, unto the world, who quickeneth and draweth sinners home to God, John 16:7-8; Acts 2:4; Ephesians 4:4-5; and He comes into our hearts. John 1:1, 12; Galatians 4:4, 16; 2 Corinthians 5:12; Titus 3:5; 1 John 5:1, 10, 13.
4. We believe in the Beginning God made man upright, and placed him in a state of glory without the least mixture of misery, from which he voluntarily by transgression, fell; and by that means brought himself a miserable and mortal state subject to death. Genesis 2:17; 3:19.
5. We believe that God is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to the repentance and knowledge of the truth, that they might be saved; for which Christ has commanded the Gospel to be preached among all nations and to every creature. Mark 16:15; Luke 24:47; John 3:15; 1 Timothy 2:4.
6. We believe that no man shall suffer in hell for want of Christ who died for him. But as the Scripture has said, for denying the Lord that bought them; because they believe not in the name of the only

begotten Son of God. Unbelief, therefore, being the cause why the just and righteous God of Heaven will condemn the children of men. It follows against all argument that all men, at one time or another, are found in such capacity as that through the grace of God they might be eternally saved. Acts 17:30; Mark 6:6; Hebrews 3:10; 1 John 5:10.

7. We believe the whole Scriptures are infallibly true, and that they are the only rules of faith and practices. 2 Timothy 3:16-17.
8. We believe in the doctrine of General Provision made of God in Christ for the benefit of all mankind, who repent and believe in the Gospel. Luke 14:16, 20; Matthew 28:19-20; Luke 24:47; Acts 3:19; Mark 1:15.
9. We believe that sinners are drawn to God, the Father, by the Holy Ghost who offers his divine aid to all the human family, so as all might be happy, if they would give place to His diving teachings; therefore, such who do not receive the divine impressions of His Holy Spirit, shall at a future day, seal their own condemnation, and charge themselves with their own damnation, willfully rejecting the offer of His sovereign grace. Matthew 11:27; John 6:45, 65; Psalm 1:1; Titus 2:11-12; Jeremiah 22:29.
10. We believe that men, not considered simply as, but ungodly men were of old ordained to condemnation, consider such who turn away the grace of God unto lasciviousness, denying the only Lord God and the Lord Jesus Christ who bought them, and therefore, shall bring upon themselves destruction, but we observe that they and such as the Apostle saith, because they received not the love of the truth that they might be saved. Therefore, the indignation and the wrath of God is upon every soul of man that doth living and dying therein, for there is

no respect of persons with God. Jude 1:4; 2 Peter 2:1; 2 Thessalonians 2:11-12; Romans 2:9, 11.

11. We believe that all children dying in infancy having not actually transgressed the law of God in their own person are only subject unto the first death which was brought on them by the fall of the first Adam and not by the guilt of Adam's sin, for "of such is the Kingdom of God." 1 Corinthians 15:22; Matthew 18:25; Mark 9:36-37; Matthew 19:13.
12. We believe that good works are the fruits of a saving faith, and that in the use of this means of grace and not out of the use of these means, eternal life is promised to men. Revelation 22:14-15; Luke 13:34-35; Isaiah 1:19-20; Matthew 7:8; Jeremiah 6:16.
13. We believe that no man has any warrant in the Holy Scripture for justification before God through his own works, power, or ability, which he has in or of himself, only as he by grace is made able to come to God through Jesus Christ, believing the righteousness of Jesus Christ to be imputed to all believers for their eternal acceptance with God. Romans 4:24; Acts 8:20-21.
14. We believe that all things are foreseen in the wisdom of God, so that God knoweth whatsoever can or cannot come to pass upon all supported conditions, yet not as having decreed any person to everlasting death or everlasting life, out of respect or mere choices, further, that He hath appointed the godly unto life, and the ungodly who die in sin, unto death. Hebrews 4:13; Proverbs 8:22, 31; Matthew 25:31, 46.

15. We believe as touching gospel ordinances in believers: baptism, laying on of hands, receiving of the sacrament in bread and wine, washing the saint's feet, anointing the sick with oil in the name of the Lord, fasting, prayer, singing praise to God, and the public ministry of the Word, with every institution of the Lord we shall find in the New Testament. Mark 16:15-16; Acts 8:17; Luke 22:19-20; John 13:5, 17, 5:14.
16. We believe the Gospel mode of baptism is by immersion, and believers are the only subjects for baptism. Matthew 3:16; Mark 1:9-10; Romans 6:4; Acts 3:19, 21; Colossians 2:12.
17. We believe in a general resurrection of the dead and a final judgment at the last day. John 5:28-29; 2 Corinthians 5:10.
18. We believe the happiness of the righteous are eternal and the torments of the wicked are endless. Matthew 25:46.

