



MINUTES

of the

101st Annual Session

of

UNION ASSOCIATION OF FREEWILL BAPTIST

Held with the Friendship Freewill Baptist Church
August 31 and September 1, 2000

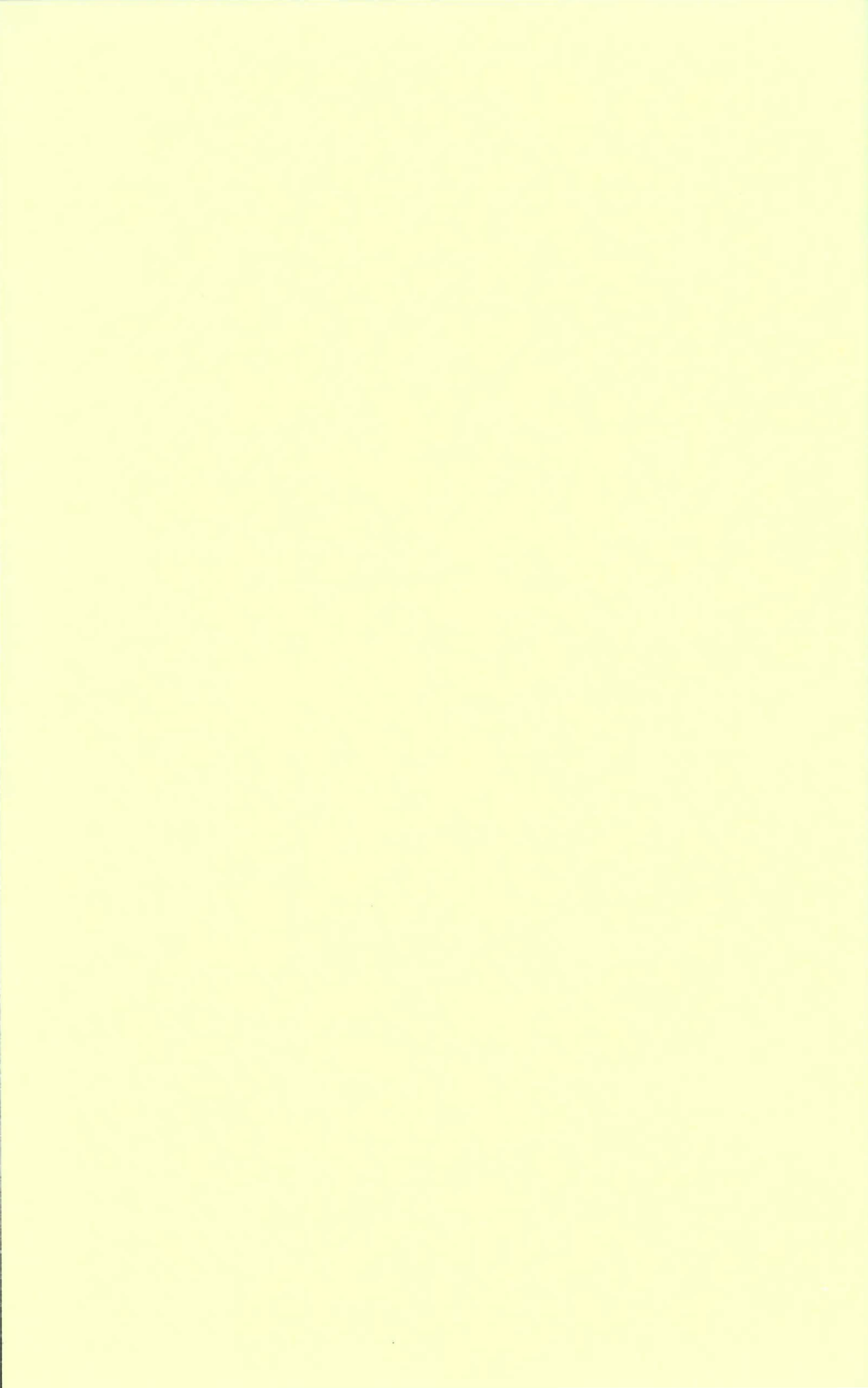
OFFICERS

Moderator	.....	Bro. Jim Ragsdale
Assistant Moderator	.....	Bro. Woodrow Coonce
Clerk	.....	Sis. Violet Hinote
Assistant Clerk	.....	Sis. Dorothy Gray

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Elder Donald Potter	.....	Term expires 2006
Elder Woodrow Coonce	.....	Term expires 2005
Elder Jim Ragsdale	.....	Term expires 2004
Elder Don Ratterree	.....	Term expires 2003
Elder Frank McCune	.....	Term expires 2001

The next Association will meet with Mt. Zion #1 Church
Thursday at 7:30 p.m. August 30 – 31, 2001 before the first Sunday in
September.



PROCEEDINGS

OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH ONE ANNUAL SESSION OF THE UNION ASSOCIATION OF THE FREEWILL BAPTIST
WHEN CONVENED WITH FRIENDSHIP CHURCH, AUGUST 31 AND SEPTEMBER 1, 2000.

7:30 P.M., THURSDAY, AUGUST 31, 2000

The one hundredth one annual session of the Union Association convened with the Friendship Church. The Association was called to order by the Clerk and she called Moderator Bro. Jim Ragsdale to the chair.

Moderator asked Bro. Donald Potter to lead in prayer.

The Moderator called for singing, the congregation sang "Love Lifted Me", "I Know Who Holds Tomorrow" and "Jesus is Coming Soon"

Moderator asked Bro. Jimmie Ragsdale to lead in prayer.

Moderator read for a scripture, James 4:17.

Moderator called for special singing, Sis. Pam Cottengim sang "Sheltered in the Arms Of God". Bro. Ralph Marliere read a poem "A Soldier of the Cross", Bro. Walter Eyman read "No Greater Love", Emily Potter and Mary Ann Parmenter sang "Don't Wipe Those Tears From the Alter", and "From the Manger to the Cross", Sis. Betty Dye sang "You Never Mentioned Him to Me"

Bro. Frank McCune was to bring the Introductory Sermon, but he was not present and the Church doesn't have a Pastor. Bro. Woodrow Coonce took the stand to bring the Introductory Sermon. He prayed then read II Timothy 4:1-4 and I Kings 18:21-26, and preached a very good sermon on "How Long Halt Ye Between Two Opinions". Turned back to the Moderator.

A song of invitation was asked for "Where He Leads Me". Alter prayer was led by Bro. Jim Ragsdale.

Moderator asked for roll call, and it was given.

Moderator chose the Credential Committee: Bro. Woodrow Coonce, Bro. Donald Potter and Bro. Jimmie Ragsdale.

Moderator chose the Divine Committee: Sis. Maydell Dake, Sis. Vera Dixon, and Sis. Velma Gray. Committees were excused to read the letters.

Moderator called for church letters, and Quarterly meeting letters.

Testamonies were called for, several were given: Bro. Bentley Walker, Bro. Walter Eyman, Sis. Linda Cottengim, Bro. Ralph Marliere, Bro. Roy Gray, Sis. Maydell Dake, Sis. Gloria Ragsdale, Sis. Leota Urdahl, Sis. Mary Ann Coonce, Bro. Jimmie Ragsdale, and Sis. Pam Cottengim.

Moderator called for a report of the Divine Committee, they reported that Bro. Donald Potter would preach at 11:00 Friday morning. Credential Committee reported favorably on three churches, stating their two requests. Cold Springs and Mt. Zion #1. Delegates were registered, seated with right hand of fellowship while we sang "That Glad Reunion Day".

Linda Cottengim announced that Mt. Zion would have their 75th anniversary and homecoming on Sunday, September 17, 2000.

Service was dismissed with prayer led by Bro. Bobbie Dixon.

9:30 a.m. Friday, September 1, 2000

Moderator Bro. Jim Ragsdale opened the service by asking all to stand and ask Bro. R. E. Helsley to lead in prayer.

Moderator read St. Luke 17: 5 & 6.

Moderator called for congregational singing: "I'll Meet You in the Morning", "Come and Dine" and "O, Come Angel Band".

Moderator asked Bro. Woodrow Coonce to lead prayer.

Moderator called for church letters and petitional letters. Credential Committee was dismissed to read the letters.

Clerk read the roll call and the By-Laws.

Moderator chose the rest of the committees. State of Religion Committee: Sis. Dobbie Ritter, Sis. Pam Cottengim, and Sis. Hazel Stephens. Sunday School Committee: Sis. MayDell Dake, Sis. Dale Thomas, and Sis. Betty Dye. Temperance Committee: Bro. Bobbie Dixon, Bro. Don Ratterree, and Bro. Ronnie Epps. Obituary Committee: Sis. Vera Dixon, Sis. Mary Ann Coonce, and Sis. Ivona Pierson.

Moderator called for Clerk to read the Petitionary letters.

LETTERS TO THE UNION ASSOCIATION

Letter to the Union Association from the Douglas County Quarterly Meeting when convened with Friendship Church August 31 and September 1, 2000.

We have 5 churches with 225 members, 13 preachers and 2 deacons. On July 29, 2000 Bro. Jimmie Ragsdale was Ordained to preach the Gospel of God. Bro. Mike Jones returned his membership to the Mansfield Church. We lost two Deacons this year as they went to be with the Lord. Bro. Earnest Sparks from Willow Springs #2 and Bro. Ted Stillings of Breedan Church.

We send as delegates our beloved Sisters in Christ Gloria and Mia Ragsdale, and we also send \$100.00 to help with the work of the Lord. We pray that you will receive our letters and delegates to help you in doing God's work.

Moderator — Bro. Roy Gray

Clerk — Sis. Violet Hinote

Letter from Wright County Quarterly Meeting of Freewill Baptists to the Union Association when convened with the Friendship Church on August 31 and September 1, 2000.

We send as delegates our beloved Sisters Mary Lee Mabe and Sharon McKinney. We are also sending \$100.00 to help with the expenses of the Association.

We have 6 churches which reported favorably at our July meeting. We have 11 ministers and 6 deacons. In February our Beloved Bro. Jerry Ratterree was Ordained to preach the word of God, and in April our Beloved Bro. Ralph Marliere was Ordained to preach the Gospel. Bro. Rick Mabe was licensed to preach the Gospel at our July meeting. Bro. Mike Benson moved his membership to another church.

We voted as a group not to join the State Association and we pray that we will continue to have a Godly spirit with all of God's people.

We pray you receive our letter and our Sister Delegates to aid you in your Godly deliberations.

Moderator — Bro. Bentley Walker

Assistant Clerk — Sis. Doris McCune

August 31, 2000 Union Association of Freewill Baptists

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

The Mission Association of Freewill Baptists sends as corresponding Delegates to your annual meeting Brother R. E. and Sister Rose Helsley. Our Association held its 52nd Annual Session May 5 and 6 of this year. The Lord blessed and we are thankful for the privilege to be a part of His kingdom's work.

We encourage fellowship among believers in Christ for their benefit and to the glory of God. We invite you to send corresponding delegates to our meeting in 2001. God bless your labor is our prayer.

In Christ Glenda Keith — Clerk

Mission Association

Letter from Ministers and Deacons Conference to the Union Association when convened with Friendship Free Will Baptist Church on August 31 and September 1, 2000.

We send as Delegates Bro. Woodrow Coonce and Bro. Doug Irwin. We pray you receive our letters and delegates to aid you in Godly deliberations.

The Ministers and Deacons Conference met at Friendship Freewill Baptist Church on March 10 and 11, 2000 for its annual meeting. There were seven in attendance. Two Ministers and two Deacons reported by letter. Each Minister and Deacon gave a good report of their past year's activities.

As reported last year, the weather kept the attendance down in number, again this year, but the Church was full of God's love and spirit. We enjoyed four spiritual sermons, several songs and testimonies.

If you were unable to attend this year we urge you to join us at Cold Springs Freewill Baptist Church on March 9 and 10, 2001.

Moderator — Bro. Frank McCune

Clerk — Sis. Deana Matney

Clerk read the petitionary letters.

Call for Corresponding delegates. 123rd Annual Session of the Little Vine Associations of General Baptists convened with Lilly Ridge Church — Dale Roberts, Pastor. (Date should have been March 24 — 25, but was changed to March 31 and April 1.) Called to order and sang some songs, prayer by Bro. Wieman King. Women's oge Handbell ringers who played "In The Garden". Also have a teenage group of bellringers and young ones starting with colored bells.

Theme for session this year was "Importance of Families". Friday night message was on "How to Recognize Hurting Families" and used Joshua 24: 14-26.

Saturday morning business sessions: Read letter from Union Association

Letter from White River Association of General Baptist — 118th session 9 churches, 682 members.

Home Missions report by Bob Comer — Nixa Church is now self-supporting and ready to build on or build a new church which would seat 250-300 people. Springfield South Park — had 150 for grand opening and 100 Sunday before session. Mammoth Springs, Ark. — New church opening in former General Baptist facility. Olathe, Kansas — Hispanic church which also teaches English classes.

Gave a very good and interesting report.

Report of Hammonds Mill Camp — 21 people saved or rededicated

Report from Dennis Johnson from Council Association — not having problems with Sunday School literature as in the past. Had 265 churches in 1999 and 274 in 2000, 5 new missionaries or 7 if you count husband and wife teams.

Set time of Association as 3rd Friday night in March every year. Will convene for the 124th session with Cabool General Baptist Church March 16 and 17, 2001.

Dale Roberts took over to bring message. Gave definition of family as household, group of people, fellowship together. Christian influence in the home makes a family. Adam was lonely, God made woman and passed a divine blessing on the family. Parental authority was instigated and is held together by love. Need family religion to be a stable family able to get through the storms which come.

Saturday afternoon turned to David Evans — worked at Fordland Honor Camp for 3 years as Chaplain. 740 in Fordland mostly from alcohol and drug abuse and have to be taught to break the cycle. Read from and named 8 things we should be doing:

1. Concern for our self and family
2. Search for meaning
3. Challenge and admonish one another with love
4. Be accountable to Church family
5. Public disclosure of acts and facts
6. Banishment is possible in family. No secrets as many churches died over "secrets"
7. Leadership by ideas and pastors.

Closed by reading Matthew 25. I was hungry and you fed me. Dismissed
by Bob and Vera Dixon

Moderator called for election to the Executive Board: Donald Potter was nominated and elected.

Moderator called for a motion to send Bro. Bion Irwin a card when we get his letter. Motion made, seconded and passed to do so.

Call for Evangelist report was none, Bro. Ralph Marliere volunteered to be Evangelist for the coming year.

Moderator called for volunteers to go to Little Vine Association: Linda Cottengim and MayDell Dake. Mission Association: Bob and Vera Dixon. Missouri Association: Donald and Portia Potter. Cave Springs Association: Ralph Marliere and wife.

Bro. Roy Gray dismissed for recess.

After recess Bro. Ronnie Epps led in prayer.

Moderator read Luke 9:18. Congregation songs were "Won't It be Wonderful There?" and "Victory in Jesus".

Moderator called for specials: Sis. Betty Dye sang "Take Him Down", Bro. Roy Gray sang "When I Make My Last Move", Bro. Ralph read a reading "The Tablecloth", Sis. Pam Cottengim sang "Is My Lord Satisfied with Me?"

Moderator called Bro. Donald Potter to the stand, he read Revelations 7:13, prayed and preached a good sermon on "Are We Hanging On or Hanging Loose?"

Turned back to the Moderator who asked for a song of invitation "Have Thine Own Way".

Dismissed for lunch and asked blessing on the noon meal by Bro. Don Ratterree.

1:15 P.M.

Moderator asked Bro. Doug Irwin to lead in prayer.

Moderator read Ecclesiastes 12:13-14. Congregation sang "What a Day That Will Be", "Just a Little Talk with Jesus" and "I Want to be Ready to Meet Him".

Clerk read the financial report.

Committee reports were read by the Assistant Clerk.

Obituary Report

Many of our older people are going on to meet their reward and it seems we do not have younger people joining our smaller churches. This leaves only a small number to attempt to keep the services going. Pray the Lord will send more laborers into the Harvest and let's work to help it happen.

We are very thankful for the dedicated Christians who have remained faithful to the Lord until the end of this life, and because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold. But he that shall endure unto the end, same shall be saved. Matthew 24:12-13.

In Revelations 14:12-13, John wrote "here is the patience of the Saints, here are they that keep the Commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus, and I heard a voice from Heaven unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors; and their works do follow them.

The following people have been called to their reward since our last meeting: Violet Clayton — Hopewell; Joe Sanders — Mt. Zion #1; Earnest Sparks — Willow Springs #2; and Ted Stillings — Breedan.

Sis. Vera Dixon, Sis. Mary ann Coonce, & Sis. Ivona Pierson

Sunday School Committee

We, the Sunday School Committee, believe that Sunday School is a very important part of church services, and that each teacher should be a dedicated born-again Christian and willing to always to do God's work. II Timothy 2:15 says to study to shew thyself approved unto God a workman unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed rightly dividing the word of truth.

We believe that Sunday School is for ages and that we should teach from the King James Version only.

Sis. Maydell Dake, Sis. Dale Thomas, Sis. Betty Dye

STATE OF Religion

We believe the church should use the King James Version which is the true word of God.

Let us pray without ceasing and keep God first in our hearts and life. Ecclesiastes 12:13. "It is the whole duty of man to fear God and keep His commandments."

Sis. Debbie Ritter, Sis. Pamela Cottengim, Sis. Hazel Stephens

Moderator asked for any business. None

Moderator called for the Number of Minutes — voted to have 125 printed.

Moderator called for Nominator for Memorial Address: Bro. Roy Gray was nominated and elected for the 2001 meeting.

Clerk read the financial report.

Moderator asked are all represented — 4 churches did not report, 11 churches are in the Union Association.

Moderator called for Ordination of Ministers. None

Called for Pastorless churches: Friendship, Willow Springs #2, and Breedan.

Call for setting of next Union Association: Mt. Zion #1, Cold Springs, and Mansfield asked for it, Mt. Zion elected.

Introductory sermon: Bro. Frankie McCune

Moderator: Bro. Don Ratterree

Assistant Moderator: Bro. Frankie McCune

Moderator asked for specials: Bro. Pete Conley, Sis. Charleen Irwin, Bro. Woodrow Coonce gave good testimonies. Bro. Ralph Marliere read "The Old Alter", Bro. Walter Eyman recited "That's What Heaven Means to Me".

Assistant clerk read the Temperance Committee report.

Temperance Committee:

Even though temperance is generally connected with the use of alcoholic beverages and rightly so being as our church covenant states that we are to abstain from the use and sale of alcoholic beverages, and the scriptures tell us in Prov. 20 that wine bites like an adder and is a mocker. Temperance should apply to all areas of our lives. I Cor. 25 "Every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things."

Temperance should also apply to our dealings with our fellow man, if we see him in a fault, or if we feel he has wronged us. When we approach him, we should temperate in our attitude that we do not offend him, that we might win him or restore him to the Lord. Let us be moderate in all things and always follow the leadership of the Lord.

Don Ratterree, Bobby Dixon, Ronnie Epps

All committee reports were accepted.

Bro. Pete Conley led in prayer.

Congregation sang "Oh, Come Angel Band". Bro. Walter recited "That's What Heaven Means to Me" again. Sisters MayDell Duke and Mary Ann Parmenter sang "Don't Wipe Those Tears Off the Alter".

Bro. Doug Irwin sang "Anchores Aweigh", "Headed for the Promised Land" and "I Came on Business for the King".

Moderator called Bro. Lee Hampton to the stand for the Memorial address. Bro. Lee quoted Romans 6:23 and read Proverbs 9:11-12 & Isaiah 6:1-8 during his sermon on "Isaiah's vision and fear the Lord and so as He says do". Invitation song "No Not One". Alter prayer.

Bro. Woodrow read Revelations 14:13.

Moderator asked for announcements: Roses for Elmer Snyder and Bro. Roy Gray.

Bro. Doug and Sis. Corina Irwin asked for prayer and anointing with oil, the Ordained Ministers granted their request.

Standing ovation for thanks to the Moderator.

Standing ovation for thanks to the church for hosting the Association.

Vote of thanks to the Clerk and Assistant Clerk.

Dismissed by Bro. Ralph Marliere.

IN MEMORY

Of the deceased Ministers of the Union Association of Freewill Baptist

J. W. Hamby
James T. Halcomb
William Gosvener
A.J. Barnett
Alfred Murr
O.F. Dennis
C.M. Branstetter
D.H. Long
J.W. Housley
James F. McCall
Marion b. Clift
Thomas Conner
H.A. Jones
J.T. Cole
Ora Keller
John H. Plunk
Ona Richardson
Dee Royster
James Wolfe
Levi T. Koch
Faye George
L.J. (Bud) Gearing

James Eli Burney
H.M. (Bud) Cope
Oren Buss
Willis Turner
John Koch
Clarence Ussery
O.L. Allen
H.T. Edwards
Harry Massey
Charley McCallister
John Oxley
Preston Branstetter
Arthur Rich
Cloud Smith
John Ratterree
J.W. Newton
Sigel Moody
Mack Hal
Willie Wilson
Walter Lay
Louie Wake
Harve Maxwell

Ben Owens
W.H. Stephens
Earnest Detherage
Ervin York
N.E. Snyder
Ira Owens
Archie Coomer
Charlie Edwards
Oliver Letterman
Roper Dixon
Ed Phipps
Drew Smith
Owen Saladin
Orvil Stephens
Earl Baker
Jeff Williams
Kermeth Bass
Max Irwin
Issac Dixon
Ebb Pruiett
I

MINISTERS
That registered

Woodrow Coonce
Roy Gray
Doug Irwin
Jimmie Ragsdale

Bentley Walker
Ralph Marliere
Donald Potter

Jim Ragsdale
Pete Conley
Lee Hampton
Don Ratterree

MINISTER'S WIVES
That Registered

MaryAnn Coonce
Velma Gray
Corina Irwin

Gloria Ragsdale
Robbie Conley
Portia Potter

Hazel Stephens
Inez Walker
Maxine Ratterree

VISITING MINISTERS & WIVES
That Registered

R.E. Helsley and wife Rose
Walter Eyman and wife Ellen
Helen Batten
Charleen Irwin

DEACONS
That Registered

Bobby Dixon
Bob Clark

DEACON'S WIVES
That Registered

Vera Dixon
Maydell Dake
Linda Clark

CLERKS
That Registered

Robbie Conley
Linda Cottengim
Dale Thomas
Betty Dye

DELEGATES
That Registered

Bill Conley
Bobbie Cottengim
Pam Cottengim
Betty Dye
Ronnie Epps
Roy Gray
Roy Hampton
Keith Murray
Teresa Murray
Ivona Pierson
Debbie Ritter
Annette Sarter
Earnest Strong
Dale Thomas

**DELEGATES FROM THE QUARTERLY MEETINGS
AND MINISTERS AND DEACONS CONFERENCE**

Gloria Ragsdale	.....	Douglas County
Mary Lee Mabe	.....	Wright County
Sharon McKinney		
Woodrow Coonce	.....	Ministers and Deacons

NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF CHURCH CLERKS

Elsie Atchison	Friendship	Ava, MO 65608
Robbie Conley	Glendale	Min Grove, MO 65711
Linda Cottengim	Mt. Zion	Norwood, MO 65717
Betty Dye	Coldsprings	Min Grove, MO 65711
Dana Satterfield	Mansfield	Wasola, MO 65773
Dale Thomas	Breedon	Ava, MO 65608
Laura Walters	Hopewell	Min Grove, MO 65711

QUARTERLY MEETING AND MINISTERS AND DEACONS CLERKS

Wright County	Doris McCune
Douglas County	Violet Hinote
Ministers and Deacons	Deana Matney

NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF ASSOCIATION CLERKS

Violet Hinote	Rt. 2, Box 711, Ava, MO 65608
Dorothy Gray	2356 Bell Crossing Rd. Mtn. Grove, MO 65717

NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF MINISTERS

Mike Benson
Pete Conley
Woodrow Coonce
Roy Gray (Retired)
Lee Hampton

Hartville, MO
Mtn. Grove, MO
Ava, MO
Norwood, MO
Ozark, MO

Leo Harmon
Bion Irwin
Doug Irwin
Donald Harris
Mike Jones

Ava, MO
Ava, MO
Gainesville, MO
Vanzant, MO
Squires, MO

Ralph Marliene
Richard Martin
David Mathis
Frank McCune
Donald Potter

Mtn. Grove, MO
Dora, MO
Dunn, MO
Mtn. Grove, MO
Norwood, MO

Jim Ragsdale
Jimmie Ragsdale
Greg Raney
Don Ratterree
Jerry Ratterree

Seymour, MO
Marshfield, MO
Norwood, MO
Mtn. Grove, MO
Theodosia, MO

Thomas Ratterree
Willie Roberts
Bobby Simmons
Danny Smart
Dwayne Sparks

Mtn. Grove, MO
Willow Springs, MO
Seymour, MO
Mtn. Grove, MO
Dora, MO

Jack Stephenson
Ben Walker
Bentley Walker
J. D. Williams

Mtn. Grove, MO
Mtn. Grove, MO
Mtn. Grove, MO
Vanzant, MO

Church Reporting	Church Sundays	Amount for Minutes	Total Membership	Members Died	Members Received	Dismissed by Letter	Amount Paid Pastor	Amount Paid Evangelist	Building and Repair	Value of Property	Pastor
Breedon	FT	\$10	44	1	6	0	---	\$ 350.00	---	---	None
Coldsprings	FT	\$20	39	0	2	0	\$ 3795.00	\$ 125.00	7045.00	\$ 65,000.00	Jimmie Ragsdale
Friendship		\$50	46	0	0	0	\$ 1450.00	\$		\$ 50,000.00	None
Hopewell	FT	\$10	97	0	2	2	\$ 5097.00	\$ 1000.00	---	\$ 90000.00	Frank McCune
Mansfield	FT	\$10	15	0	2	2	\$ 4200.00	\$	\$ 1582.91	\$ 50,000.00	Jim Ragsdale
Mt. Zion #1	FT	\$30	72	1	10	2	\$ 4200.00	\$ 600.00	\$ 196.72	\$ 78,000.00	Donald Potter
Prior	FT	\$15	13	0	2	2	\$ 315.00	\$ 290.00	\$ 4855.00	---	Dwayne Sparks
Glendale	FT	\$10	--	0	0	0	\$ 1680.00	---	---	---	Pete Conley
TOTALS		\$160	326	3	25	10	\$20422.00	\$ 2304.00	\$ 13679.63	\$333,000.00	

Minister Reporting	Church Minister Belongs To	Funerals Conducted	Revivals Held	Churches Pastored	Sermons Preached	Professions Witnessed	Received In Church	Baptized	Assisted Ordaining	Miles Traveled	Money Received
William Coonce	Mansfield	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Roy Gray (Retired)	Coldsprings	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Dwayne Sparks	Willow Springs #2	---	---	---	22	---	---	---	---	920	---
Pete Conley		0	0	1	104	---	---	---	---	1056	\$1000.00
Lee Hampton	Breedon	2	0	0	---	3	6	4	0	---	---
Blon Irwin	Coldsprings	0	0	0	35	1	0	8	0	2500	\$450.00
Doug Irwin	Mansfield	0	3	1	100	3	---	8	---	---	---
Jim Ragsdale	Mansfield	1	2	1	124	---	2	0	0	12,000	\$4650.00
Ralph Mariere	Glendale	1	---	1	20	---	---	---	---	500	0
Donald Potter	Mt. Zion #1	6	4	1	120	6	10	8	0	3,000	\$4200.00
Greg Raney		---	---	---	17	---	---	---	---	425	---
Ben Walker	Hopewell	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Bentley Walker	Glendale	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Jimmie Ragsdale	Coldsprings	0	0	1	104	3	0	0	0	6000	\$3900.00
TOTALS			1	1	45	3	---	4	---	---	---

TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance on hand	.....	\$ 830.09
Received from Churches	.....	\$ 160.00
Received from Quarterly Meetings	.....	\$ 200.00
Total	.....	\$ 1190.00

EXPENSES

Minutes	.....	\$112.00
Paid Clerk	\$100.00
Paid Assistant Clerk	\$100.00
Paid for Safe Deposit Box	\$ 40.00

Total	\$352.00
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<i>New Balance</i>		\$838.09
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FREEWILL BAPTIST 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 the 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 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, to promote the success of the church and of the gospel.

We will everywhere hold Christian principle 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 in earth as it is in heaven.

We agree faithfully to discharge our obligations in reference to the study of the scriptures, secret prayer, family devotions, and social worships; and by self-denial, faith, and good works endeavor to "grow in grace and the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ". We will not forsake the assembling of ourselves together for church conferences, public worship and the observance of the ordinances of the gospel, nor fail to pay according to our ability for the support of the church, its poor, and all its benevolent work.

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 and Savior Jesus Christ.

FREEWILL BAPTIST ARTICLES OF FAITH

1. **THE BIBLE** — The Scriptures of the authorized King James version, both Old and New Testament were given by inspiration of God and are our only infallible rule of faith and practice.
2. **GOD** — There is one living and true God, revealed in nature as the Creator, Preserver and Righteous Governor of the universe, and in the scriptures as the Father, Son and Holy Ghost; yet as one God infinitely wise and good, whom all intelligent creatures are to supremely love, adore and obey.
3. **CHRIST** — Christ is God manifest in the flesh; in His divine nature truly God in His human nature truly man. The mediator between God and man. Once crucified, He is now risen and glorified and is our ever present Savior and Lord.
4. **THE HOLY SPIRIT** — The scriptures assign to the Holy Spirit all the attributes of God. He is the Reprover, Comforter, Guide and Sanctifier of men.
5. **THE GOVERNMENT OF GOD** — God exercises a wise and benevolent providence over all beings and all things by maintaining the constitution and laws of nature. He also performs special acts of grace not otherwise provided as far 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, inherited a fallen nature of such tendencies that all who come to the years of accountability, sin and become guilty before God.
7. **THE WORK OF CHRIST** — The Son of God by His incarnation, life, sufferings, death and resurrection effected for all a redemption from sin that is full and free and is the grounds of salvation by faith.
8. **THE TERMS OF SALVATION** — The conditions of salvation are: 1. Repentance or sincere sorrow for sin and the hearty renunciation of it. 2. Faith or the unreserved committal of one's self to Christ as Savior and Lord, with 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 in faith and obedience until death.
9. **ELECTION** — God determined from the beginning to save all who should comply with the conditions 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 and live, 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 persevere in holiness to the end of life, have the promise of eternal salvation.
13. **GOSPEL ORDINANCES** — Baptism, or the immersion of believers in water, and The Lord's Supper are ordinances to be perpetuated under the gospel. Feet washing is an ordinance teaching humility and is of universal obligation to 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. **WAR** — War destroys the lives of innocent people and is contrary to the New Testament; therefore, we are opposed to war.
16. **RESURRECTION, JUDGEMENT AND FINAL RETRIBUTION** — The scriptures teach 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 shall "go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life".

CONSTITUTION

From long experience we, the Freewill Baptist Quarterly Meetings and churches, are convinced of the necessity of a combination of quarterly meetings and churches, to perpetuate our union and communion among us and preserve and maintain a correspondence among each other in our union; therefore, we propose to maintain and keep the orders and rules of our Association according to the following plan and form of government.

1. This Association shall be called the Union Association of Freewill Baptist and shall be composed of such well regulated Freewill Baptist Quarterly Meetings and churches as may embody themselves under the constitution.

2. The active members of the conference of the Association shall be two delegates from each church, chosen by the members of their respective churches while in conference, together with all ministers, ministers' wives, deacons, deacons' wives who belong to a Freewill Baptist Church in the Association, church clerks belonging to any church composing this body. Also three members from each quarterly meeting under the Association, two to be chosen by each quarterly meeting and the other shall be the permanent clerk of the quarterly meeting.
3. The officers of the Association shall be a Moderator and an Assistant Moderator, who shall be elected annually, and hold their office until their successors shall be elected; a permanent Clerk and Treasurer, who shall superintend the printing of the minutes; an Executive Board of five members whose duty it shall be to transact all business of the Association when this body is not in session, and whose term of office shall be as follows: one for one year, one for two years, one for three years, one for four years, and one for five years; and at the expiration of each of these terms, one is to be elected for a term of five years; and who shall hold their office until their successor is elected. And further, if any vacancies occur between sessions of the Association, the board shall fill such vacancy or vacancies until the next session of the Association; all of whom shall perform such duties as usually devolve upon such officers.
4. Any regularly organized Freewill Baptist Quarterly Meeting or church maintaining Gospel order, agreeing with this denomination in doctrine and practices in favor of benevolent enterprises, as Sabbath Schools, Missions, Temperance, and Education, may be received into this Association by presenting a petition asking to be received; and ministers and deacons desiring to become members must be recommended by the church to which they belong, appear in person and then by a vote of this Association, when such vote shall be decided by the majority of all votes cast.
5. This Association shall have power to discipline its Quarterly Meetings, or churches may refer to them to make any rules or By-Laws necessary to its regulation and not inconsistent with its Constitution; but in no case shall this Association reverse a decision of its Quarterly Meetings or in any way interfere with its internal regulations, nor hold any ecclesiastical power over the Quarterly Meetings or churches composing this Association.
6. The sessions of this Association shall be held with only such churches that call for it by a vote of the church while in conference, and when two or more churches make such a request for the same session, it shall be decided by a vote and the majority of all votes cast shall be final.

7. The sessions of the Association shall convene annually at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday before the first Sunday in September at which time it shall be the duty of the Quarterly Meetings and churches composing this Association to represent themselves by delegates and send written reports. The Quarterly Meetings are to report their spiritual standing, benevolent work, ministers licensed or ordained, and appeals, if any have been taken. The churches are to report their spiritual standing, benevolent work, names and addresses of their ministers and clerks, the names of their deacons, meeting days and statistics; at which time the Association shall act upon such questions and topics as may be referred to them through their committee; and transact such other business not repugnant to this Constitution nor to the usage of the denomination as in their judgment may promote the cause of Christ and the interest of the Quarterly Meetings and churches within the limits of this Association.
8. It is the duty of this Association to provide for the general union of the churches, to point out their interests and aid them in securing pastors, to put out evangelists and other ministers in places where the gospel is most needed, and require a written annual report of each minister belonging to this body.
9. This Constitution may be altered or amended by two-thirds majority of all members voting at any regular session of this Association when written notice setting forth the exact intended alterations or amendments shall be given at previous meetings.

BY-LAWS

1. The Clerk or Assistant Clerk, and in their absence, the senior minister in years of service, shall call the Association into conference and if a quorum be present, the Moderator, or in his absence, the Assistant Moderator, shall take charge and if neither are present then the senior minister in years of service shall act as Moderator.
2. All persons declared by the Committee on Credentials to be duly entitled to a seat in this Association and accepted by this body are hereby made full members of this Association.
3. Five members from two or more churches shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business; a less number shall adjourn until that number is present.
4. Each meeting shall be opened by reading a portion of the Bible and prayer, and closed by prayer.
5. All Christians shall be entitled to a seat in council, and may take part in all discussions, but members only shall be allowed to vote.
6. Any ruling of the Moderator may be over-ruled by a two-thirds majority of all members voting.
7. This Association shall sit with open doors, except when it shall go into a committee of the whole.
8. It shall be the duty of the members of this Association to be present at the time appointed for each meeting, and anyone wishing to retire shall first obtain the leave of the Moderator.

9. All business, except routine, shall be brought before this body by committees, but should any committee refuse or fail to present to this body any business given to it by any member of this Association, then such business may be presented to this body by any member but cannot be discussed, unless by a vote of this body.
10. All resolutions and reports shall bear the names of all members of the committees who favor them; and if the names be not a majority of all members of the Committee, then the Clerk shall not read the resolution or report.
11. The Moderator shall not allow discussion when not carried on in a Christian spirit, or when he thinks it will lead to discord and division.
12. Anyone desiring to speak shall rise to his feet and address the Moderator by appellation, "Brother Moderator", but shall not speak until recognized by the Moderator.
13. No person shall be allowed to speak more than 10 minutes each time, no more than twice on the same subject without permission of the Association.
14. No one shall be interrupted while speaking unless he depart from the subject under discussion, or uses words that cast reflection upon the denomination or on one or more of its members.
15. This Association may correspond by message or otherwise with other religious bodies.
16. Anyone violating these By-Laws shall be subject to a public reprimand by the Moderator.
17. A majority of all votes cast shall be final upon all subjects except to amend the Constitution and By-Laws, and over-rule the Moderator, then it shall require a two-thirds majority.
18. Each minister shall be given a yearly certificate by the Association, provided there is no charge against him.
19. No minister of this Association shall pastor any church that has been excluded from this or any other Association until they set their house in order.
20. The ordaining or licensing council shall be composed of only ordained ministers of the Association in good standing present at each session.
21. These By-Laws may be altered or amended at any regular session of this Association.

ORDER OF BUSINESS OF THE ASSOCIATION

This conference will open Friday at 9:30 a.m. and 1:45 p.m. Preaching at 11:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. on Thursday night.

1. Convene on Thursday at 7:30 p.m. before the first Sunday in September.
2. Praise by congregation.
3. Clerk call the Association into conference.
4. Clerk call the Moderator to the chair.
5. Moderator call for the introductory sermon.
6. Enrollment of ministers, ministers' wives, deacons, deacons' wives, and church clerks.
7. Appointment of committees on Credentials and Divine Services, temporary.
8. Call for letters from churches.
9. Call for letters from Quarterly Meetings.
10. Call for petitionary letters.
11. Call for report on Committee on Credentials.
12. Seat delegates and give right hand of fellowship.
13. Roll call.
14. Invite all Christians to seats in council.
15. Call for corresponding letters and delegates.
16. Seat delegates.
17. Read the By-Laws.
18. Appointment of committees.
19. Call for appeal from Quarterly Meetings.
20. Call for report of Executive Board.

21. Call for Treasurer's report.
22. Call for report of Evangelist.
23. Call for report of corresponding delegates.
24. Elect a member to the Executive Board; or more than one if vacancies exist.
25. Miscellaneous business.
26. Moderator inquires: Are all churches represented?
27. Call for ordination of ministers.
28. Call for pastorless churches.
29. Call for ministers' written reports.
30. Call for election of Evangelist.
31. Corresponding delegates.
32. Report of all committees.
33. Determination of number of minutes to be printed.
34. Call for money for minutes.
35. Elect someone to give Memorial Address.
36. Call for vote of thanks to Moderator.
37. Call for vote of thanks to church and community.
38. Select place of next annual session.
39. Select someone to preach introductory sermon.
40. Final report of all committees.
41. Discharge of all committees.
42. Elect moderator and assistant.
43. Adjourn with prayer.

