

**MINUTES OF THE
145TH ANNUAL SESSION
OF THE
UNION FREE WILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION
AND MINISTERS' CONFERENCE**



FIRST FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH, MORRISON CITY

308 VALLEY DRIVE

KINGSPORT, TN 37665

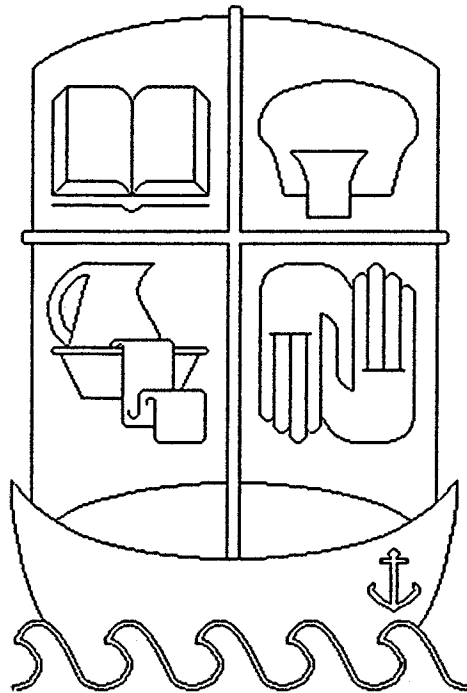
THEME: "UPON THIS ROCK I'LL BUILD MY CHURCH—JESUS"

MT. 16:13-24

AUGUST 24-25, 2017

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**Minutes of the
145 Annual Session of the Union Free Will Baptist Association**



August 24-25, 2017

First Free Will Baptist Church , Morrison City, TN

Union Free Will Baptist Association

Moderator: John Buchanan

Clerk: Edward Maynard

Union Free Will Baptist Association Ministers' Conference

President: Jesse Hartgrove

Clerk: Edward Maynard

Union District Women Active for Christ

Union Youth Camp

Theme: "I Will Build My Church—Jesus." Matthew 16:13-24

OFFICERS

Moderator
Assistant Moderator
Clerk
Assistant Clerk
Treasurer
Assistant Treasurer

John Buchanan
Mark McDavid
Edward Maynard
Tim Carson
Brian Capps
Devin Hilton

GENERAL BOARD MEMBERS

Moderator (Union)
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Assistant Moderator (Union)
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Clerk (Union)
Edmaynard13@peoplepc.com
Treasurer (Union)
bcapps1206@gmail.com
President of Minister's Conference
pastorjesse@charter.net
Clerk of Ministers' Conference
Edmaynard13@peoplepc.com
Member of Ordaining Council
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Central Quarterly Moderator
blakesgunsandrepair@comcast.net
Eastern Fellowship Moderator
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Northern Quarterly Moderator
revnurse@comcast.net

John Buchanan
Mark McDavid
Edward Maynard
Brian Capps
Jesse Hartgrove
Edward Maynard
Billy Gragg
Jeff Blake
Tim York
Chris Castle

UNION WOMEN ACTIVE FOR CHRIST

President
Vise President
Secretary
Treasurer

Meryl Archer
Mitzi Satterfield
Betty Fleshman
Dorothy Copus

**145th SESSION OF THE UNION FREE WILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION
PROCEEDINGS**

**OPENING SESSION
Thursday Afternoon, August 24, 2017**

Rev. Brian Capps, pastor of Morrison City Free Will Baptist Church welcomed everyone to the church.

Rev. John Buchanan, Moderator, gave the moderator's message. He read from Matthew 16:13 and titled his message "The Only Way."

The opening session of the 145th annual Union Free Will Baptist Association convened August 24, 2017 at the First Free Will Baptist Church of Morrison City. The meeting was called to order by the Clerk, Edward Maynard and he introduced the Moderator, Brother John Buchanan.

The conference seated the voting body. Visitors were seated in an advisory capacity. MSC to give the moderator the authority to deviate from the program if needed.

Brian Capps was called upon to give the treasurer's report (see report). MSC to adopt the report

Bro. Edward Maynard, Clerk, gave the clerk's report (see report). Edward Maynard then gave the report for the General Board. The General Board had met on four occasions during the year.

1. Set date for meeting in January 2017 to plan the 2017 yearly meeting.
2. Met in November at the State Association as an informal meeting to try to come up with some ideas to make the yearly meeting better.
3. Met on January 10, 2017 for the purpose of planning the 2017 yearly meeting of the Union Free Will Baptist Association. Some highlights from the reports were:
4. Brought to the Association four items for consideration.
 - a. To help defray the cost of hosting this conference, give the host church a \$500.00 honorarium.
 - b. To approve the date changes of this Association Meeting, the speakers chosen, and adopt the agenda as written and give the moderator the authority to deviate from this agenda if necessary.
 - c. To give the special singers a \$150.00 honorarium.
 - d. To give the following honorariums: Moderator: \$600.00, Clerk: \$600.00, and the Treasurer \$1000.00.
 - e. Placement for the 2018 Union Association yearly meeting. August 23-24, 2018. The meeting will be at the Evergreen Free Will Baptist Church in Erwin, TN.

MSC to adopt report and act on the items, item by item. All items were approved.

The following greeting were received as information (see reports)

- | | |
|---|-----------------|
| 1. Tennessee State Office, | Glen Poston. |
| 2. Board of Retirement, | John Brummitt.. |
| 3. Free Will Baptist Family Ministries, | Frank Woods. |
| 4. Berea Ministries, | Chris Dotson. |
| 5. Women's National Active for Christ, | Mrs. Brummitt |
| 6. Free Will Baptist Foundation, | Tim York. |
| 7. Barnabas Connection, | Tim Roach |

The moderators from Eastern Fellowship and Northern Quarterly meeting gave their reports (see reports) MSC to adopt.

Bro. Tim Roach gave the youth camp report. (see reports). MSC to adopt.

MSC to recess until 3:00 pm Friday, August 25, 2017

The First Free Will Baptist Church of Morrison City provided a delicious meal for all.

We gathered at 7:00 pm for worship service. Bro. Chris Dotson led the congregation in song, "Kneel At The Cross". The singing group "Down Pour" blessed us with some good singing. A few of the songs: "God is Still Good", "I'll Never Forget," and "I Can't Quit."

Rev. Noah Taylor preached from Matthew 16:13-18, "I Will Build My Church". We were encouraged to keep on working for the LORD and not get the idea that Jesus cannot build our churches today.

Friday Afternoon. August 25, 2017 3:00 pm

Moderator, John Buchanan, called the Union Free Will Baptist Association back in session.

Rev. Brian Capps gave the devotion from Matthew 6:18. "Who does the Church Actually Belong To".

Rev. John Buchanan gave greetings from the Central Quarterly Meeting. The actual report is pending.

The following Union Reports were given and adopted. The reports are in the reports section of the Minutes of the Union Free Will Baptist Association.

Resolution Committee,	Jesse Hartgrove
Prayer Request Committee,	John Buchanan
Obituary Committee,	Chris Dotson
Nominating Committee,	Dexter Brummitt
UDWAC,	No greeting, just report.

MSC carried to create a Camp Committee for the Union Camp. The moderator appointed Bro. Jesse Hartgrove, Chair, Bro. Steve Hartley, and Sis. Erika Kirkpatrick. They are appointed for a 3 year term ending 2020. Then one will be replaced or elected to continue for another 3 year term. These will be staggered so only one (1) member will be replaced each year.

MSC to give the moderator authority to appoint someone from the Union Free Will Baptist Association as a delegate should they attend the State Meeting.

The next meeting will be at the Evergreen Free Will Baptist Church in Erwin, TN on August 23-24, 2018.

MSC To Adjourn.

REPORTS:

REGISTRATION REPORT

Ordained Ministers:	43
Ordained Deacons	2
Elected Delegates	2
Visitors	<u>30</u>
Total	87

4

Central Quarterly Meeting had no written Moderator's Report

Easter Fellowship Moderator's Report

This letter is to report on the current status of the Eastern Fellowship of Union Association of Free Will Baptist.

The Eastern Fellowship has 5 churches, 6 ordained ministers and 1 licensed minister. Eastern Fellowship will meet on Tuesday January 16, 2018 and May 6, 2018.

Blessings,

Tim York
Moderator

Northern Quarterly Meeting Moderator's Report

NORTHERN QUARTERLY MEETING

Greetings from The Northern Quarterly we are excited to be apart of the Union Association.

We currently have 14 church currently. We have seen the loss of 2 churches, Wayland FWB and Mt. Carmel FWB who have withdrawn from our Northern Quarterly.

We are thankful to attend here at First Free Will Baptist Church at Morrison City. We are Thankful for Bro. Brian Capps and this church in hosting the Union Association meeting.

We are excited about our upcoming yearly Walk-a-thon to be held at Laurel Run Park in Church Hill, TN on September 9, 2017.

We are encouraged to maintain our fellowship within our Quarterly and The Union Association.

Respectfully,
Christopher S. Castle
Moderator, Northern Quarterly

OBITUARY REPORT

NAME	CHURCH	QUARTERLY
Ron Marsahl	Peace	Central
Bettie Lou LeFevers	Peace	Central
Rufus Crum	West Greene	Central
Billy Gardner	West Greene	Central
Dora Hall	West Greene	Central
Jerry Gardener	West Greene	Central
Donald Welholt	West Greene	Central
Alfred Cutshall	Limestone	Central
Harry Kyker	Limestone	Central
Dewy Hensley	Limestone	Central
James D. Brown	Limestone	Central
Goldie Adams	Limestone	Central
Pauline Hensley	Limestone	Central
Joe Campbell	Limestone	Central
Alic Estep	Limestone	Central
Peggy Southerland	Pine View	Northern
Charlie Lovelace	Pine View	Northern
Tom Mitchell	Bethesda	Northern
Margie Robinson	Eastern Starr	Northern
Raymond Perry	Mt. Bethel	Northern
Anne Mabe	Surgoinsville	Northern
Louise Ferrell	Surgoinsville	Northern
Joyce Benton	Van Hill	Northern

A moment of silence and prayer.

MSC to print these and others in the minutes

MSC to have a time of memorial and prayer.

MSC place on the annual report a section for each church to list those deceased and have the quarterly clerks to send the list on the Union clerk so the names can be given to the Obituary Committee.

Respectfully Submitted:

Chair, Chris Dotson, Kevin Rose.

RESOLUTION COMMITTEE

Report of the 2017 Union Free Will Baptist Association Resolution Committee

1.

“Whereas the population of the world has now exceeded seven billion people, and whereas only ~4% of those seven billion people identify themselves as evangelical Christians,

and whereas our Lord Jesus teaches us that , ‘broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be that go in thereat’,

and whereas those multitudes going into destruction are scripturally compared to a great harvest,

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and whereas our Lord also teaches us of the urgency of reaping this great harvest (John 4: 35),

and whereas our Lord again teaches us of the great magnitude of the harvest in comparison to those who are laboring to bring it in (Matthew 9:37),

and whereas, in light of that fact, the Lord Jesus commands us, 'pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest' (Matthew 9:38):

Be it resolved that we, the Union Free Will Baptist Association, with its leadership and ministers; its churches and their membership, devote ourselves to particular prayer to the Almighty Lord of the Harvest that He would 'raise the spirits' (Ezra 1:5) of men from amongst our churches, calling them, enabling them, and sending them into His harvest as faithful preachers of the Gospel, laboring for the salvation of those who apart from salvation are entering destruction."

2.

"Whereas the First Free Will Baptist Church of Morrison City received the 145th Annual Meeting of the Union Free Will Baptist Association,

and whereas much planning and preparation was made to host this annual meeting,

and whereas First Free Will Baptist Church of Morrison City, with its pastor and membership have been most gracious hosts,

Be it resolved that we, the Union Free Will Baptist Association, express our thanks by a standing vote of thanks.

Respectfully Submitted:

Rev. Tim Carson, Rev. Tim York, Bro. Jesse Hartgrove

PRAYER REQUEST COMMITTEE

Prayer is vital for Christians. It is through prayer that we get to the throne of God. Hebrews 4:16 tells us we can find grace to help in time of need. The Disciples of Christ asked to be taught to pray. They saw the value of prayer as well. Prayer gives the child of God advantages over the things one faces. Let us therefore come boldly unto the Throne of Grace.

1. Pray for our President that God will give him wisdom and knowledge to lead our country.
2. Our men of God.
3. Our Churches
4. Union Free Will Baptist Association
5. The lost.
6. Those that are sick.
7. Revival.
8. Pray for our pastors

Respectfully submitted by: Doyle Pruett, Donny Roberts, and Dennis Spears.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE FOR 2018

Those nominated for 2018 are:

Resolutions Committee:

Chair : Donald Myers (Central)
Jackie Cole (Eastern)
Chris Castle (Northern)

Prayer Request Committee:

Chair: Donnie Roberts (Eastern),
Carl Callahan (Northern),
David Dugger (Central)

Obituary Committee:

Chair: Kevin Rose (Northern),
Gary Hodges (Eastern),
Gary Gass (Central),

Nominating Committee:

Chair: Roger Gross (Central),
Tony Shelton Eastern),
Jesse Hartgrove (Northern)

The moderator and assistant moderator will not be nominated until 2018.

The Clerk, Assistant Clerk, Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer are elected indefinitely.

All that were nominated were elected.

Submitted by:

Dexter Brummitt: Chair (Central)
Gary Hodges (Eastern),
Brian Capps (Northern)

Union Bible Camp 2017

This year's camp was very fruitful. We had 160 campers in attendance. The Lord blessed with 66 decisions for the Lord! Brother John Buchanan brought some fine lessons during our afternoon chapel services, and powerful messages for our evening services.

We want to thank everyone for your support. Folks that donated funds, time, and their talents to make 2017 successful. The Free Will Baptist Family Ministries cut the cost of the camp \$10.00 per camper from \$125.00 to \$115.00 per camper. We paid FWBFM \$19,423.00. This included camper fees and extra meals for guests.

We would encourage you to pray for the planning of next year's camp. Be looking for letters in the mail for some upcoming changes to the registration process.

We also recommend that the Union establish a camp board.

Starting balance	\$1,616.69
Deposits	\$28,141.11
Expenses	<u>\$24,680.45</u>
Ending balance	\$5,077.35

Respectfully submitted, Tim Roach

UNION DISTRICT WOMEN ACTIVE FOR CHRIST: No report or greeting. A flyer was passed out about their annual meeting to be held on September 23, 2019.

CLERK'S REPORT: Union Free Will Baptist Association Minutes of the General Board.

The board met on August 20, 2016 to organize and set a date for the Union General Board to meet for the purpose of planning the 2017 annual meeting. .

In the absence of the Moderator and Assistant Moderator, the Clerk, Edward Maynard, called the meeting to order. MSC to meet on January 10, 2017 at the Liberty FWB Church at 6:00 pm. MSC to adjourn.

The General Board met at the State Association on Nov. 15, 2016. Those present were, Moderator John Buchanan, Clerk: Ed Maynard, Jesse Hartgrove, Tim York, Chris Castle, and Brian Capps.

Meeting was called to order by the Moderator, John Buchanan. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss what we can do to improve our yearly meeting.

Many ideas were discussed and it was agreed to pray and come with some good ideas for the January 10, 2017 General Board Meeting.

MSC to adjourn meeting.

Edward Maynard, Clerk

THE GENERAL BOARD MEETING
January 10, 2017

Those present were: Moderator, John Buchanan, Clerk, Edward Maynard, Jesse Hartgrove, Tim York, and Chris Castle.

Bro. Edward Maynard led us in prayer.

Bro. John Buchanan read from the book of Isaiah chapter 53 verses 1-5.

Meeting was called to order by the Moderator, John Buchanan. Minutes and Clerk's report were read and there were no correction. The reports were accepted as read.

The Board adopted the theme for the yearly meeting. The theme is "I Will Build My Church—JESUS." The scriptures are Matthew 16:13-24.

The dates and times of the yearly meeting were changed. The following were approved by this board. The meeting will be held on August 24-25, 2017. The times are as follow: Registration for the Ministers' Conference will begin August 24 at 2:30 PM and the Ministers' Conference will be from 3:00-4:30 PM.

The registration for the Union Free Will Baptist Association will begin August 24, 2017 at 3:00 PM and the Union Free Will Baptist Association meeting will be from 4:30-6:00 PM.

Supper will be served by the host church, First Free Will Baptist Church of Morrison City, from 6:00-7:00 PM.

Worship service will begin at 7:00 PM.

Friday August 25, 2017: Registration will continue. The Ministers' Conference business will be from 3:00-4:30 PM and the Union Free Will Baptist Association will be from 4:30-6:00 PM

Supper will be served by the host church from 6:00-7:00 PM

The ordination service will begin at 7:00 PM.

MSC to limit all reports to 3-5 minutes and will be called greetings. The reports from these ministries will be given to the clerk either by e-mail or at the meeting. These reports will be included in the minutes of the Union Free Will Baptist Association.

The following were chosen to preach: Moderator's message, John Buchanan on Thursday, Devotion: Brian Capps on Friday, and Noah Taylor for the Thursday evening worship service.

The following are motions made from this body and do not need a second:

I. To help defray the cost of hosting this conference, this board moves to give the host church a \$500.00 honorarium.

II. This board moves to approve the following: The date changes of this Association Meeting, the speakers chosen, and adopt the agenda as written and give the moderator the authority to deviate from this agenda if necessary.

III. This board moves to give the special singers a \$150.00 honorarium.

IV. This board moves give the following honorariums: Moderator: \$600.00, Clerk: \$600.00, and the Treasurer \$1000.00.

MSC to adjourn.

Edward Maynard, Clerk.

August 24, 2017 GENERAL BOARD OF UNION FREE WILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

Those present: Moderator, John Buchanan, Clerk, Ed Maynard, Billy Gragg, Chris Dotson (proxy for Jeff Blake), Brian Capps, Jesse Hartgrove, Mark McDavid. Danny Willis, Tim Roach and Johnny Ragan were also present.

Meeting called to order by the moderator.

MSC to have the next yearly meeting at the Evergreen FWB Church in Erwin, TN. The dates are August 23-24, 2018.

MSC to adjourn.

Union Association Annual Report 2017

Balance Forward	\$16,752.06
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Revenues

Bethany	\$240.00
Central Quarterly	\$12,600.00
Community Chapel	\$400.00
Eastern Fellowship	\$2,100.00
Fellowship	\$600.00
Jackson's Chapel	\$825.00
McMillian	\$192.00
Morrison City	\$300.00
Northern Quarterly	\$6,300.00
New Home	\$500.00
St. Joseph	\$200.00
Union Chapel	\$360.00
white pine	\$150.00

Total Revenues	\$24,767.00
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Disbursements

Annual Fees	\$16,200.00
Camp	\$1,200.00
Foreign Missions	\$962.00
Home Missions	\$1,025.00
Tennessee United Fund	\$1,232.44

Total Disbursements	\$20,619.44
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Balance Forward	\$16,752.06
Add funds designated to general	\$4,147.56

Balance in Account	\$20,899.62
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Expenses

Speakers for Meeting	\$200.00
Honorarium for Treasurer	\$1,000.00
Honorarium for Clerk	\$600.00
Honorarium for Moderator	\$600.00
Back church dues not paid	\$900.00
Newport Printing	\$375.00
Secretary of State	\$20.00
Board Expenses	\$1,237.00
Honor for Thurman Pate	\$1,000.00
Honor for Derek Bell	\$500.00
Camp Donation	\$1,500.00

Total Expenses	\$7,932.00
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Total in the Treasury	\$12,967.62
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GREETINGS:
2017 WNAC REPORT
Louisville, KY

This year we have been blessed to have two of our Ivorian sisters visit us. What a joy to hear their testimonies and celebrate the fruit of International Missions' labors since the late 1950's.

Gifts to the **Steward Provision Closet** were almost \$27,000 which enabled us to meet the specific needs of 178 international missionary or church planter families.

This year our **Cleo Pursell Foreign Student Scholarship** (\$1000) has been awarded to the students at the Cedars of Lebanon Seminary in Cuba.

The **Mary R. Wisheart Scholarships** (\$1000) have been awarded by three of our FWB colleges: Lizzie Stevanus (Welch); Natalie Crumpler (Southeastern); and Lauren Childers (Randall).

In 2015 WNAC established a scholarship to meet the needs of our international students studying here in America which has been officially named, **The Miley International Student Scholarship**, in honor of the LaVergne Miley family.

Dr. and Mrs. Miley served 19 years in Doropo, Côte d'Ivoire establishing our medical ministry that continues to thrive today. Their oldest son, **Lynn**, and his wife, Ramona, served seven years in Côte d'Ivoire and six years in France. Their daughter, **Lynette**, and her husband, Clint, served 29 years in Côte d'Ivoire, six years in France, and have served from 2011 to the present as General Director of International Missions. To date, this family has invested more than 70 years in international service.

This year's recipients are: **Keren Delgado** (Cuba/Panama) and **Deborah Trifonov** (Bulgaria). Both are studying at Welch College.

We are very grateful for our recent grant from the FWB Foundation allowing us to host two more **Shine! Conferences** in the fall designed for young ladies 12-18 years old.

Randall University (Moore, OK) will be our host site for the October conference. This conference will also introduce an **alumni track** for girls attending their second Shine! conference. Being on Randall's campus will expose the young ladies, their moms and youth leaders to higher Christian education. Pray that hearts will be sensitive to the Lord's call on their individual lives.

Seffner Christian Academy is hosting the November conference. Parents who invest in Christian education for the elementary, middle school and high school years usually have a deep burden for their children to walk closely with the Lord. We want to come alongside them and strengthen, encourage and challenge these young ladies.

In May we traveled to Cuba for the **national retreat** sponsored by WNAC. We raised \$12,000 to underwrite the cost of this retreat attended by 357 women. There were 43 more ready to come....but there was no diesel available for their transportation on their part of the island.

The ladies enjoyed this **retreat**...the first national retreat in a decade. They left asking for another one very soon. God met with us and encouraged and strengthened the hearts of these precious sisters. Their fellowship was sweet and relationships were strengthened.

While at the ladies' retreat, I was able to meet the **Cuban doctor and the X-ray technician**, who are being sent as **missionaries** to Doropo, Côte d'Ivoire. Having served at the hospital this spring on a THP trip, I am especially thrilled our ladies have been able to raise money to pay for *the plane tickets*. **Dr. Katiuska** and her church planter husband, along with their two children are awaiting their visas to move to Doropo. Please pray. **Lazara**, the x-ray technician, is already in Doropo.

Our sisters in **Uruguay** gathered for their second retreat in July. Our Oklahoma sisters had underwritten the cost of the retreat itself. We assisted by providing gifts and funds for their gift bags.

The **theme** for the coming year of Bible studies is **"When Plans Change."** We will be studying various **character traits and attitudes** exhibited by biblical characters during various changes in their lives. May our heart's cry be like that of Jesus as seen in our theme verse Luke 22:42, "...Not my will, but Thine, be done."

We would love to share more with you about the ministry of WNAC, how your ladies can be part of what God is doing through us, and how you can support our ministry. Feel free to call or email.

The Barnabas Connection Ministries

Greetings in the Name above all names, the Lord Jesus Christ.

To this day **The Barnabas Connection Ministries** continues to be as it began years ago, a Ministry of Encouragement. I learned long time ago a valuable lesson that I believe has helped keep this Ministry on course. You see, there are Volunteer groups, Clubs, Organizations and even state and Federal Agencies that endeavor to "Encourage" people. Encourage simply means: "to give support, confidence, or hope to someone; to inspire with heart, courage and spirit". When you get right down to it there are

many good people who are doing their best to help others. And through these fine and respectable ways people can be lifted up, given fresh heart with renewed confidence and hope. People and Clubs and Agencies can encourage people! But there's more that needs to be done.

Just today I heard a radio station manager read a letter from a husband whose wife 10 months ago got a diagnosis of stage 4 cancer. Weekly for 9 months they make 5-hour drives to her treatments. During the hours in their car they listened and sang along with "Oldies Music," station. But on July 1st, just days ago, the husband planned the funeral of his wife of 41 years. He wrote the letter to tell of their enjoyment of the music and how it helps him as he looks to time for healing. After he finished reading, the radio station manager said, "Such a sad letter." The music helped the couple make the hours of travel and it helps the husband some now. But that's not enough! From what was written in the letter, this husband has no hope for the future. Not for himself or his wife. Human Encouragement falls short of meeting the real needs of life.

In Jesus Name we are taught to: gather together, pray and even give a cup of water. The Bible says, **And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the Name of the Lord Jesus (Col. 3:17)**. This is why we encourage in Christ's Name. That's why I call it "Biblical Encouragement".

Human Encouragement can feed people but Biblical Encouragement offers people the Bread of Life. Human Encouragement can give people clean water but Biblical Encouragement offers people the Water of Life. Human Encouragement can clothe people but Biblical Encouragement offers people the opportunity to be clothed in Christ's Righteousness. Human Encouragement can build a new house for people but Biblical Encouragement freely offers people a new Home in Heaven. For sure, Human Encouragement gives hope and heart to people. But truly, Biblical Encouragement believed gives a new heart to people and a hope that is the anchor of their soul!

The Barnabas Connection Ministries continues to give the written Word of God-Bible, and we share the Living Word of God-the Lord Jesus Christ. Each one of the different Ministries in The Barnabas Connection is based on and uses the Bible. We continue to want to help people but we want to meet the needs that will last for eternity!

You are a faithful support and help that keeps us going and we thank you! Yours for Biblical Encouragement, Rodney

"Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted." (2 Cor. 1:3-4)

Rodney Bailey- 311 W. Doe- Elizabethton, TN – 37643 – 423-542-9193 – barconn@embarqmail.com.



Report to the Union Association

Allow us to share in our news of celebration.

On average, we care for 125 children daily in our residential programs in Tennessee and Arkansas.

In 2016 we celebrated 155 first time decisions for Christ, 89 followed Him in baptism, and 6 rededication.

We continue to raise awareness and funds for the ministry of opening a **Maternity Home**, adjacent to the **Hope Center**, our crisis pregnancy/resource center in Greeneville TN. At the time of this report, fundraising efforts include \$234,130 in actual monies received, and \$375,000 pledged money, for a total of \$609,130 of our \$800,000 goal. Future renovations will include 5 apartments, to provide a home for mother and her child.

November 18th, 2016 we celebrated with the ribbon cutting and open house for our new **Resource Center** in Elizabethton, TN. At this location, we offer our new "**Hands to Help**" in-home senior care and support, foster care services and Christian counseling. On December 9th of last year, we opened our second resource center in Erwin, TN, providing a satellite office of the Hope Center, called "**Door of Hope**", and also offers senior care and support, foster care, and Christian-based counseling. We recently received our license to operate in Greenwood, AR, and are now offering in-home program, with the goal to provide additional services in the future as needed. We are excited to offer these new areas of Ministry to all age groups. We are excited to offer these new areas of ministry to all age groups.

Florence Crittenton Home, in little Rock, AR, providing care to children since 2004, continues to be a safe haven for those who live there. **Maggie House**, our home in Charleston, AR, continues to operate at near capacity with 30 children since opening its doors in December 2015. The Children are primarily make up of sibling groups. What a blessing to see them reunited after being in separate homes across the state of AR. The **Curt, Cliff & Opal Young Children's Home**, at Chaffee Crossing, Fort Smith, AR, officially opened with our ribbon cutting on July 28th, 2017, with capacity to serve an additional 32 children. We began taking children on July 31st, and anticipate all 4 homes will be at capacity by October of this year.

We are currently providing care for approximately 110 senior citizens in our two assisted living facilities, **Governor's Bend**, Erwin, TN & **The Laurals**, Wise, VA. The Laurals recently celebrated their 10th year anniversary and Governor's Bend is coming up on their 5th year since opening. We are thankful to be able to offer quality full service living where residents have the independence of living in their own suites with freedom to do exactly as they like, all while enjoying the safety and services provided by an attentive 24-hour staff.

With our purchase of **John M. Reed Center**, Limestone, TN, renovations are complete in hopes to be accepting residents by the end of August. The facility will feature a 63 skilled bed/long term nursing home, and 12 assisted living apartments.

Camp Season is winding down for the 2017 season at the **Oaks Retreat Center**, though our weekends are filling up quickly with guests. In 2016, we hosted over 3,065 guests. During youth camp in 2016 we were witness to 66 individuals receiving salvation, and 44 followed Christ in baptism.

Free Will Baptist Family Ministries has been faithful in serving since 1939, and we exist today only because of the continued prayers and support from friends like you. From August 2016 through July 2017, members of the Union Association have contributed just over \$49,600! Your unwavering commitment allows us to continue God's kingdom work. We want to thank each of you for what you do for Family Ministries!

Together, we can make an eternal difference in the lives of hurting children and families.

2017 Meeting Report. Board of Retirement

Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to bring greetings. We appreciate the opportunity to share a little bit about our ministry and what the Lord is doing at the Board of Retirement.

If you are in the plan then you know that 2017 has been a good year for your retirement account.

Commit thy works unto the LORD, and thy thoughts shall be established. – Proverbs 16:3

Board of Retirement 2017 Earnings					
Funds	May	June	July	Last Quarter	2017 YTD
Default	1.45%	0.02%	1.53%	2.871%	10.236%
Conservative	0.78%	-0.16%	0.89%	1.390%	4.796%
Moderate	0.63%	0.12%	1.67%	1.569%	6.728%
Maximum	1.92%	-0.05%	2.65%	4.632%	16.481%

If you are not a part of the retirement program, I would like to encourage you to join. The Board of Retirement is available to any employee of Free Will Baptists that draws a paycheck from the church or church agency. Over the past two years we have focused our outreach on letting employees of FWB know that they are eligible to participate in our program. We have seen record growth in enrollment over the past year and a half. If you have a daycare or school at your church and would like us to come out to present the plan, please contact our office or see me at this meeting. Remember retirement is a great mission field; the Lord can use you to do great things, but you have to allow yourself to be used. Prepare yourself and your staff financially. Starting as soon as you can and being consistent with your contributions will give you the greatest opportunity to be prepared.

The Board of Retirement also launched a new program this year for churches and church organizations called Institutional Investments. This program is set up for churches and church agencies to be able to open investment accounts with the Board of Retirement to allow them great rate of return on funds that are set aside for long-term use. If your church is interested in receiving more information on this new program, feel free to contact our office.

If we can be of service to you or your church, please feel free to reach out to us. Visit us on the web www.boardofretirement.com or by phone 877-767-7738.

Free Will Baptist Foundation, Greetings but no written copy.

BEREA MINISTRIES:

In the community of Tres Marias, there is a parcel of ground on the banks of the Papaloapan River. Pastor Alfredo Cruz, the Oaxaca District president, once said, "If we had a little money, we could buy this property for a church." So a few Free Will Baptists got together, received an offering, and secure the ground.

Shortly after, the fledgling congregation sent word again through Pastor Cruz: "We are ready to work! If we had a little money, we could buy some blocks and build a church." So a few Free Will Baptists decided to give an offering and purchase the materials.

The growing group began meeting between those four walls with only a tarp for a roof. During a visit with Alfredo, he said, "Our people are hard workers. If we had just a little money, we could construct a proper roof on this building and get it out of the weather." There was no question; it needed to be done, so a few Free Will Baptists decided to send an offering, and the roof was built.

The congregation continued to work and win souls. "If only we had some concrete. We could mix it ourselves and pour a floor for our building." Their request was heard, and a few Free Will Baptists received an offering to purchase the flooring.

This is a typical partnership between churches in the U.S. that support Berea Ministries and our sister churches in Mexico. One supplies the need, the other does the work, and God gets all the glory.

Some time ago, I had the opportunity to present the gospel in this riverside church. That Sunday morning, the congregation was made up of both men and women, young and old. When I extended the invitation, 16-year-old Maximino came forward to put his faith in Christ Jesus. I thought to myself, this is what it's all about. Then it occurred to me, **if only more Free Will Baptists would take an offering, our pastors could build more churches, and God would be glorified through the saving of more lost souls.**

Friends, thank you for your generosity to Berea Ministries. We're operating with the same vision that Howard Munsey cast in the 1950s: to glorify God by the support of national pastors, who are spreading the gospel to all who will hear.

Dr. Chris Dotson | President
Berea Ministries Inc.

Post Office Box 57
Morristown, TN 37815
Mobile: (423) 523-2887
www.bereaministries.org



**Tennessee State Association of Free Will Baptists
Promotional Director's Report to the
Union Association
August 24-25, 2017**

Thank you for your labor in the Lord's work and your generous support of our various ministries.

- There are many good things going on in the state and at the national level. More importantly, great things are happening in many of our local churches.
- Finances to the **Unified Ministry Plan** are steady and giving to all of the national ministries seems to be up.
- **Family Ministries** Continues to grow and expand. A new facility, the Young Children's Home, consisting of four beautiful new homes approximately 2750 square feet each, was recently opened in Fort Smith, Arkansas. Each home can accommodate up to eight children. Most of the cost (\$1.875 M) was provided by the Curt, Cliff, and Opal Young Trust.
- The John Reed Center will soon be opening in the Limestone community of East Tennessee. The skilled nursing unit will serve 63 patients and the facility will also have 12 beautiful assisted living apartments. Jacob Frady was recently hired as a field representative and Dr. Randy Sawyer has been hired as Director of Development.
- Both of our **mission church plants** are going self-supporting at the end of the year. The Kivette and the Lewis families have labored faithfully in Clarksville and will take the church self-supporting at the end of the year. Continue to pray especially for Melissa Lewis as she continues to receive cancer treatments.
- Jordan Osborn is doing well in Oakland assuming the work after his dad passed away a few years ago. It may interest some that Robyn Osborn was recently married to Benny Reece who lost his wife to cancer as well.
- Our state **home missions board** is searching for a new place to build a church or sponsor a revitalization project.
- Our **state international missions board** is actively involved in doing "Go Global" seminars across the state. If you would like to have one at your church or in your association, contact home missions board chairman Jerry Gibbs at 865-310-5433. I would also like to encourage you to get involved in the Don and Billie Sexton Mission Project. This effort has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars over several decades.
- TWAC has planned a women's retreat this year for Oct. 5-7 in Pigeon Forge. Lynette Morgan is the featured speaker, with a theme of *"When Plans Change."*
- The state **Christian Education Board** provided leadership for the state competition April 28-29 at the Donelson Fellowship. The board reports they had one of the largest groups of participants ever. Many of these young people went on to compete at the national level in Louisville, KY last month.
- The state youth retreat *"Defend 17"* will be held in Pigeon Forge, Nov. 10-12. The Donelson Fellowship Church's youth pastor, Aaron Pontius and former NFL tight end, Troy Sadowski are the featured speakers.

- The **Executive Committee** has chosen the speakers for the TN State Association meeting, Nov. 13-15. Ray Lewis, Dr. Danny Dwyer, Frank Woods, and Mike McCoy will develop the theme, "*Except the Lord Build the House.*" Our state moderator, Dexter Brummitt will also bring the moderator's message on this theme. Rooms for the state meeting can be reserved by calling the hotel direct at 888-428-8350. Rooms are \$79 each and most have two queen beds and a kitchenette. Please make sure they know you are with the Tennessee Free Will Baptists.
- **Welch College** is now on their beautiful new campus. On May 19, they graduated 58 students. Eleven of these students received scholarships because their churches gave at least 5% to the UMP (or at least \$10,000) undesignated. If you have students planning to attend Welch in the near future, now would be a good time to get involved with the Unified Ministry Plan. Churches supporting the UMP also get a benefit of their church staff receiving 5% of their gifts to their retirement plan.
- The **Mission North America Offering** is November 19, 2017. Let's all get behind NAM as they lead the way in church revitalization and planting new churches in America.
- The **Free Will Baptist Board of Retirement** has had very good success enrolling new participants in the retirement program. Already there has been 101 new participants this year. Earnings did quite well for the first and second quarter of this year, 8.571% YTD in the default fund. Every Free Will Baptist pastor and employee should consider enrolling in the retirement program.
- The **National Association** was held in Louisville, KY this year, as well as the youth conference and the WNAC. There were around 4600 people attending this year.
- **Randall House** is having a great year. They have published several new titles including a great book of ideas about youth ministry by Jon Forrest, *Help! My Games Stink: 52 Amazing Games for Youth Ministry*. The D-6 Conference is planned for September 20-22 in Dallas. Details can be found on the Randall House website: www.randallhouse.com
- The **Free Will Baptist Foundation** is having huge success with enlisting new people to participate in planned giving and is serving our denomination well with many grants on worthy projects. Grants from the Foundation totaling \$500,000 were announced at the national meeting for various Free Will Baptist ministries.
- **WNAC Director**, Elizabeth Hodges announced at the national convention that due to continuing financial issues, their magazine will be available in the printed version. It will only be available in digital form. Mrs. Hodges said she was excited about several projects her department is involved in especially the "Shine" conferences for young women and girls as well as several missions projects and women's conferences.
- Thank you again for your participation in all of the ministries that Free Will Baptists are involved, just remember, it all begins in the local church. Nothing can be done without you.
- If I can be of service to you, please don't hesitate calling. I would love to be invited to share with your church.

Glenn Poston
Promotional Director

Annual Letter From Quarterly Meeting to District Association or District Association to State Association

Association Name Central Quarterly Meeting
Meeting Location First FWB Church, Morrison City, Kingsport, TN Date August / 24-25 / 2017 (month/day/year)
Reporting Period May / 2016 to May / 2017 (month/year)
Moderator Jeff Blake Phone (423) 636-1307
Address 725 Old Newport Hwy. Email jtblake@comcast.ent
City Greeneville State Tn Zip 37743
Clerk Larry Kelley Phone (423) 502-6076
Address 5065 Old Stage Rd. Email office@limestonefwb.org
City Chuckey State TN Zip 37641

Delegates

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

A. CHURCH CHARACTERISTICS

1. Number of churches 31
2. Number of churches reporting 31
3. Number of churches:
Within city limits 5
Rural 26
4. Total number of churches with:
Full-time pastors 16
Bi-vocational pastors 16

B. MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

1. Baptisms 183
2. Members added 97
3. Members lost 140
4. Membership 2646

C. STEWARDSHIP INFORMATION

1. Income of all churches \$ 2,203,732.00
2. Number of churches with budgets _____

D. BUILDING INFORMATION

1. Number of churches with parsonages 8
2. Value of all church property including parsonages \$ 14,189,080.00

E. GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Number of ordained ministers 52
Licensed ministers 2
(Attach names, addresses, and phone numbers)
2. Number of ordained deacons 76
3. Number of:
Daycares _____
Christian Schools _____
Bible Institutes _____
Colleges _____
4. Sunday School enrollment 1696

E. ASSOCIATIONAL PROPERTY (Camp, school, etc.)

Name _____
Value \$ _____

District association minutes requested 40 State association minutes requested 40
Representation fees enclosed: Quarterly \$ _____ District \$ 1550.00 State \$ 4650.00 National \$ 4650.00

Print completed form and send to district or state association as appropriate. Please attach recommendations and requests to this form.

Central Quarterly Meeting Churches

Updated: August, 2017

Church Address	Pastor Address	Clerk Address
Bethany FWB Church P: 625 Bethany Road Chuckey, TN 37641 M: 625 Bethany Road Chuckey, TN 37641 423-348-8366	Roger Free 88 Walking Lane Chuckey, TN 37641 423-426-8013	Deborah Reed 1716 Foxtall Lane Kingsport, TN 37660 423-246-9476
Bridgeport FWB Church P: 1525 E. Hwy 25-70 Newport, TN 37821 M: 1525 E. Hwy 25-70 Newport, TN 37821 423-623-0416	Tim Carson P.O. Box 381 Mohawk, TN 37818 423-450-0046 preachertcarson@comcast.net	Debra Hurst 175 Road Way Newport, TN 37821 423-625-3724
Bridges Chapel FWB Church P: 3405 Bridges Chapel Road Dandridge, TN 37725 M: 3210 Old Baileyton Road Greeneville, TN 37745	John Workman 1436 Sugarland Circle Sevierville, TN 37862 865-308-3185	Joann Breeden 361 Tanasi Drive Newport, TN 37821 865-322-5515
Cedar Creek FWB Church P: 3050 Cedar Creek Road Greeneville, TN 37743 M: 3050 Cedar Creek Road Greeneville, TN 37743	John Daugherty 1400 Kevin Lane Greeneville, TN 37818 423-638-3990	Minnie Seaton 2950 Cedar Creek Road Greeneville, TN 37743 423-638-4759
Community Chapel FWB Church P: 1660 Phagan Store Road Talbott, TN 37877 M: 7037 Maxwell Terrace Talbott, TN 37877 423-475-8689	Dennis Caldwell 255 Lakota Way Newport, TN 37821 423-248-7089	Joy Smith 1978 Kaylee Dr. Jefferson City, TN 37877 423-585-0730
East Greene FWB Church P: 1641 Kiser Blvd. Greeneville, TN 37743 P: 1641 Kiser Blvd. Greeneville, TN 37743	Anthony Payne 1174 Gap Mountain Road Greeneville, TN 37745 423-444-3137	Janice Tullock 525 Choctaw Drive Chuckey, TN 37641 423-257-6795
Faithful View FWB Church P: 93 Dude Lane Bulls Gap, TN 37711 M: 93 Dude Lane Bulls Gap, TN 37711		Judy Burns 13485 Lonesome Pine TR Greeneville, TN 37745 423-234-5231

Fugate FWB Church P: 1231 Fugate Rd Del Rio, TN 37727 M: 1231 Fugate Rd Del Rio, TN 37727 Greene Ridge FWB Church P: 1250 Greene Ridge Loop Afton, TN 37616 M: 1255 Greene Ridge Loop Afton, TN 37616 Greeneville First FWB Church P: 502 East Church Street Greeneville, TN 37743 M: 502 East Church Street Greeneville, TN 37743 423-638-5351 Greystone FWB Church P: 5350 Greystone Road Greeneville, TN 37743 M: 730 Laws Road Greeneville, TN 37743 Harris Memorial FWB Church P: 4090 Sunnysdale Road Greeneville, TN 37743 M: 4090 Sunnysdale Road Greeneville, TN 37743 Jackson Chapel FWB Church P: 262 Little Chuckey Cutoff Mosheim, TN 37818 M: 262 Little Chuckey Cutoff Mosheim, TN 37818 423-639-9003 Kingsley Avenue FWB Church P: 213 Kingsley Avenue Greeneville, TN 37743 M: 302 Royce Street Greeneville, TN 37743 423-639-6785	Winford French 1546 Rocky Top Rd Del Rio, TN 37727 423-487-5366 Jeff Daugherty 100 Shady Grove Lane Mosheim, TN 37818 423-422-7540 Larry McElory 1816 Ridgemont Drive Greeneville, TN 37745 423-639-3664 Roger Stockton 3711 Bluefield Drive Johnson City, TN 37601 423-926-5895 Ken Smith 3580 Sunnysdale Road Greeneville, TN 37743 423-638-8735 kenpastorteachs@peoplepc.com Jeff Blake 125 Old Newport Highway Greeneville, TN 37743 423-636-1307 Doyle Pruitt 302 Royce Street Greeneville, TN 37743 423-798-0714	Paul Sawyer 114 Church Rd. Hot Springs, NC 28743 828-775-3403 Donna Hampton 155 Greene Ridge Loop Afton, TN 37616 423-257-3305 Frances G. Darnell 1443 Piney Grove Road Greeneville, TN 37743 423-638-6959 Barry Wright P.O. Box 426 Greeneville, TN 37744 423-588-1505 Melvin Seaton 2317 Sunnysdale Road Greeneville, TN 37743 423-638-6277 Debra Wilhoit 2920 Old Midway Rd. Mosheim, TN 37818 423-422-9699 Nancy Knight 170 Choctaw Drive Chuckey, TN 37641 423-257-6128 or 872-3060
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Liberty FWB Church P: 252 Liberty Church Drive Chuckey, TN 37641 M: 252 Liberty Church Drive Chuckey, TN 37641 Limestone FWB Church P: 3709 Old State Route 34 Limestone, TN 37681 M: 3709 Old State Route 34 Limestone, TN 37681 423-257-3163 office@limestonefwb.org McMillian FWB Church P: 235 Loblolly Drive Mosheim, TN 37818 M: 235 Loblolly Drive Mosheim, TN 37818 Muddy Creek FWB Church P: 2386 Hills Chapel Road Dandridge, TN 37725 M: 2386 Hills Chapel Road Dandridge, TN 37725 865-484-1550 New Bethel FWB Church P: 707 Basinger Hollow Rd. Newport, TN 37821 M: c/o 425 Ruble Ruble Avenue Newport, TN 37821 New Home FWB Church P: 2350 Holt Town Road Newport, TN 37821 M: 2350 Holt Town Road Newport, TN 37821 423-623-5859 Newport First FWB Church P: 192 Jimtown Road Newport, TN 37821 M: 19221 Jimtown Road Newport, TN 37821 423-623-5065 www.newportffwb.com	John Buchanan 1242 Pisgah Road Greeneville, TN 37743 423-972-1394 john.buchanan45@yahoo.com Tim Roach 1028 Cocke County Road Greeneville, TN 37743 423-470-2211 tim@limestonefwb.org Chris Howell 640 West Dumplin Valley Rd. Jefferson City, TN 37760 865-705-3402 Jess Sherrod 2121 Stillhouse Road Dandridge, TN 37725 865-850-7675 mamajanaury@yahoo.com Willie Winters 276 Riviera Drive Newport, TN 37821 423-625-8005 winters204@yahoo.com Doug King 4896 Brookview Drive Russellville, TN 37860 423-312-1815 Paul Moore 2251 Barger Rd. Parrottsville, TN 37843 423-623-2218 or 608-8849 paulmoore427@hughes.net	Carol Buchanan 699 Pisgah Road Greeneville, TN 37743 423-972-5717 Brent Ricker 370 Plainview Heights Circle Greeneville, TN 37745 423-329-1175 Peggy Robinette 235 Loblolly Drive Mosheim, TN 37818 423-422-4942 Susan Hackney 1258 Cedar Hills Road Dandridge, TN 37725 865-397-7502 Susie Dockery 846 Highway 160 Newport, TN 37821 423-415-2638 Caitlyn Holt 255 Turner Ridge Rd. Newport, TN 37821 423-623-0650 Eula Mae Overholt 869 Brookside Drive Newport, TN 37821 423-623-3639
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Oak Grove FWB Church P: 2320 Old Tusculum Road Greeneville, TN 37745 M: 2320 Old Tusculum Road Greeneville, TN 37745 423-639-9241 oakgrove1@earthlink.net Peace FWB Church P: 600 S. Davy Crockett PKWY Morristown, TN 37813 M: 600 S. Davy Crockett PKWY Morristown, TN 37813 423-587-6773 FAX: 423-318-2102 www.peacefwbchurch.org Piney Grove FWB Church P: 990 Piney Grove Road Greeneville, TN 37743 M: 990 Piney Grove Road Greeneville, TN 37743 Shady Grove FWB Church M: 2115 Highway 113 Whitesburg, TN 37891 M: c/o 285 Ely Road Bulls Gap, TN 37711 423-235-2359 St. Joseph's Chapel FWB Church P: 790 McDonald Road Midway, TN 37809 M: c/o 785 Gravel Woods Road Midway, TN 37809 sjc_church@yahoo.com Union FWB Church P: 60 Ray Casteel Road Greeneville, TN 37745 M: 1154 S. Wesley Chapel Road Greeneville, TN 37745	Billy Gragg 121 Southridge Drive Greeneville, TN 37745 423-963-0740 bjgragg@icloud.com Christopher Dotson 600 S. Davy Crockett PKWY Morristown, TN 37813 423-587-6773 pastor@peacefwbchurch.org Robert Shipley 125 Tunnel Road Greeneville, TN 37743 423-422-2807 Donnie Myers 525 Terrace View Drive Bean Station, TN 37708 865-993-7728 Jeremy Seaton 285 High Top Rd. Midway, TN 37809 423-620-1417	Lisa Shelton 750 McCoy Road Greeneville, TN 37743 423-639-0021 Brenda J. Harris 4137 Peace Drive Morristown, TN 37514 423-581-9406 Kay Ricker 805 Woolsey College Road Greeneville, TN 37743 423-638-4745 Karlene Ely 285 Ely Road Bulls Gap, TN 37711 423-235-6607 Billy Larkin 785 Gravel Woods Road Midway, TN 37809 423-737-3323 Edith Johnson 2390 West Pines Road Afton, TN 37616 423-234-4684
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Union Chapel FWB Church P: 5915 Erwin Highway Chuckey, TN 37641 M: 5915 Erwin Highway Chuckey, TN 37641 423-638-0137 Union Temple FWB Church P: 9680 Kingsport Highway Chuckey, TN 37641 M: 9680 Kingsport Highway Chuckey, TN 37641 423-234-3195 West Greene FWB Church P: 4910 Shackelford Road Mosheim, TN 37818 M: 4910 Shackelford Road Mosheim, TN 37818 423-422-7388 White Pine First FWB Church P: 1412 Peach Street White Pine, TN 37890 M: P.O. Box 245 White Pine, TN 37890 865-674-7100 Woods Memorial FWB Church P: Gap Creek Road Bulls Gap, TN 37711 M: 1375 Carters Valley Road Mosheim, TN 37818	Lynn Neas 15 Broyles Road Chuckey, TN 37641 423-257-6817 Oscar McAmis 15765 Kingsport Highway Chuckey, TN 37641 423-416-0308 oscarmcamos008@comcast.net Dennis Daugherty 1088 Beth Drive Russellville, TN 37860 423-586-0032 Claude Davis 1518 Sun Valley Dr. Greeneville, TN 37745 423-470-1960	Rachel Young 1120 Barren Road Chuckey, TN 37641 423-257-3252 Pam Hughes 655 Doak Hensley Road Afton, TN 37616 423-620-0190 Rebekah Henry 1110 Ragon Hollow Lane Midway, TN 37809 423-470-0223 Lisa M. Arwood 3238 Lincoln St. White Pine, TN 37890 865-674-7868 or 423-608-0328 Kelly Evans 5715 Gap Mountain Road Greeneville, TN 37745 423-470-1117
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Annual Letter From Quarterly Meeting to District Association or District Association to State Association

Association Name Eastern Fellowship
 Meeting Location First Free Will Baptist Church of Morrison City Date Aug. / 25-25 / 2017 (month/day/year)
 Reporting Period May / 2016 to April / 3017 (month/year)
 Moderator Tim York Phone (615) 947-2505
 Address 2015 Harbor Dr. Email tim@grovechurchsmyrna.com
 City Smyrna State TN Zip 37167
 Clerk Noah Taylor Phone (615) 560-7757
 Address 1030 Quail Run Email n.taylor@evergreenfwb.com
 City Erwin State TN Zip 37650

Delegates

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| 1. _____ | 4. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 5. _____ |
| 3. _____ | |

A. CHURCH CHARACTERISTICS

1. Number of churches 5
2. Number of churches reporting 5
3. Number of churches:
 - Within city limits 2
 - Rural 3
4. Total number of churches with:
 - Full-time pastors 2
 - Bi-vocational pastors 3

B. MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

1. Baptisms 21
2. Members added 26
3. Members lost 6
4. Membership 450

C. STEWARDSHIP INFORMATION

1. Income of all churches \$ 520.000
2. Number of churches with budgets 3

D. BUILDING INFORMATION

1. Number of churches with parsonages 3
2. Value of all church property including parsonages \$ 3,150,000

E. GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Number of ordained ministers 7
 Licensed ministers 2
 (Attach names, addresses, and phone numbers)
2. Number of ordained deacons 5
3. Number of:
 - Daycares 0
 - Christian Schools 0
 - Bible Institutes 0
 - Colleges 0
4. Sunday School enrollment 250

E. ASSOCIATIONAL PROPERTY (Camp, school, etc.)

- Name 0
 Value \$ _____

District association minutes requested 10 State association minutes requested 0
 Representation fees enclosed: Quarterly \$ 0 District \$ 250.00 State \$ 750.00 National \$ 750.00

Print completed form and send to district or state association as appropriate. Please attach recommendations and requests to this form.

EASTERN FELLOWSHIP CHURCH, PASTORS AND CLERKS

Church	Pastor	Clerk
Embreeville 4203 Highway 81 South Erwin, TN 37650 423.743.3775	W. Donnie Roberts 311 Little German Rd. Erwin, TN 37650 423.743.7481	Ike Tittle 132 M. Tucker Rd. Erwin, TN 27650 423-743.3775
Evergreen 910 Hoback St. Erwin, TN 37650 evergreenchurch@comcast.net	Noah Taylor 1030 Quail Run Erwin, TN 37650 n.taylor@evergreenfwb.com	Walter Harris 107 Rolling Hills Rd. Erwin, TN 37650
Grove PO Box 1244 Smyrna, TN 37167 615.947.2502 Grovechurchsmyrna.com	Tim York 2015 Harbor Dr. Smyrna, TN 37167 615.947.2505 tim@grovechurchsmyrna.com	Jim Vallance PO Box 1244 Smyrna, TN 37161
Red Hill 1440 Indian Grave Gap Rd. Marshall, NC 28753 828.649.3208	Tony Shelton 45 Old Sheppard Branch Weaverville, NC 28787 828.273.3808	Betty McKinney 706 Upper Branch Rd. Marshall, NC 28753 828.649.3855
Fellowship FWB Church 278 Adams/Corby Rd Limestone, TN 37681 423.257.4455	Gary Hodges 560 Boring Chapel Rd. Johnson City, TN 37651 423.477.7660	Brenda Cutshall 205 L.C. McKee Rd. Jonesborough, TN 37659 423.753.4514

Annual Letter From Quarterly Meeting to District Association or District Association to State Association

Association Name Northern Quarterly of the Union Association
 Meeting Location First FWB Church of Morrison City Date Aug / 24 - 25 / 2017 (month/day/year)
 Reporting Period July / 2016 to April / 2017 (month/year)
 Moderator Chris Castle Phone (423) 502-8847
 Address 626 Fordtown Road Email revnurse@comcast.net
 City Fall Branch State TN Zip 37656
 Clerk Penney Capps Phone (423) 367-5869
 Address 308 Valley Drive Email penneyc26@gmail.com
 City Church Hill State TN Zip 37642

Delegates

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| 1. _____ | 4. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 5. _____ |
| 3. _____ | |

A. CHURCH CHARACTERISTICS

1. Number of churches 14
2. Number of churches reporting 10
3. Number of churches:
 Within city limits 3
 Rural 7
4. Total number of churches with:
 Full-time pastors 7
 Bi-vocational pastors 3

B. MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

1. Baptisms 8
2. Members added 33
3. Members lost 22
4. Membership 767

C. STEWARDSHIP INFORMATION

1. Income of all churches \$ 332,173
2. Number of churches with budgets 2

D. BUILDING INFORMATION

1. Number of churches with parsonages 1
2. Value of all church property including parsonages \$ 2,467,900

E. GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Number of ordained ministers 14
 Licensed ministers 2
 (Attach names, addresses, and phone numbers)
2. Number of ordained deacons 26
3. Number of:
 Daycares 0
 Christian Schools 0
 Bible Institutes 0
 Colleges 0
4. Sunday School enrollment 473

E. ASSOCIATIONAL PROPERTY (Camp, school, etc.)

- Name none
 Value \$ 0

District association minutes requested 20 State association minutes requested 20
 Representation fees enclosed: Quarterly \$ 400 District \$ 800 State \$ 2400 National \$ 2400

Print completed form and send to district or state association as appropriate. Please attach recommendations and requests to this form.

Northern Quarterly Meeting Churches

Church Address	Pastor Address	Clerk
Bethesda FWB Church P: 8220 Old Snapps Ferry Road Fall Branch, TN 37656 M: 8220 Old Snapps Ferry Road Fall Branch, TN 37656	Danny Willis 815 Nelse Roberts Road Chuckey, TN 37641 423-588.9509 drwilli55@gmail.com	Howard Conkin 8220 Old Snapps Ferry Rd. Chuckey, TN 37656 423-348-6882
Eastern Star FWB Church P: 153 Eastern Star Ext. Kingsport, TN 37665 M: c/o 2020 Fordtown Road Jonesborough, TN 37659	Kevin Rose 179 Meadow Springs Road Mt. Carmel, TN 37645 423-357-2572 kevintim115@embarqmail.com	Betty Hale 2020 Fordtown Road Jonesborough, TN 37659 423-349-5056
First FWB Church of Church Hill P: 208 Maple Avenue Church Hill, TN 37642 M: P.O. Box 606 Church Hill, TN 37642	Chris Crabtree P.O. Box 606 Church Hill, TN 37642 423.357.4321	Tyler Hensley P. O. Box 606 Church Hill, TN 37642 423.357.4321
First FWB Church of Morrison City P: 211 W. Carter's Valley RD Kingsport, TN 37665 M: P.O. Box 4175 Kingsport, TN 37665 423-245-7453	Brian Capps 308 Valley Drive Church Hill, TN 37642 423-357-4624 bcapps6980@aol.com	Larry Bass 212 Camby Drive Kingsport, TN 37664 423-349-7327
First FWB Church of Surgoinsville P: 1306 Church Avenue Surgoinsville, TN 37873 M: c/o 1304 Ridgecrest Avenue Kingsport, TN 37665 423-358-3478	Jesse Hartgrove 1304 Ridgecrest Avenue Kingsport, TN 37665 423-358-3478 pastorjesse@charter.net	Yolanda Moneyhun 128 Elm Street Surgoinsville, TN37873 423-921-2313
Goshen Valley FWB Church P: 1609 Goshen Valley Road Church Hill, TN 37642 M: 1609 Goshen Valley Road Church Hill, TN 37642		Freda Lane 1080 Timberbridge Trail Kingsport, TN 37660 423-676-2487
Grassy Creek FWB Church P: 798 Grassy Creek Road Rogersville, TN 37857 M: 798 Grassy Creek Road Rogersville, TN 37857	Teddy Webb 798 Grassy Creek Road Rogersville, TN 37857 423-357-0171	Alice Marshall 466 Melody Road Greeneville, TN 37745 423-234-2594

Horse Creek FWB Church
P: 2800 Princeton Road
Kingsport, TN 37664
M: 2800 Princeton Road
Kingsport, TN 37664

Midfield FWB Church
P: 1801 Grandy Road
Kingsport, TN 37665
M: 1801 Grandy Road
Kingsport, TN 37665

Overlook Drive FWB Church
P: 105 Windward Lane
Greeneville, TN 37743
M: 105 Windward Lane
Greeneville, TN 37743

Phipps Bend FWB Church
P: Highway 11 W.
Surgoinville, TN 37873
M: 105 Regency Drive
Rogersville, TN 37857
423-345-3007

Pine Grove FWB Church
P: 12690 Horton Highway
Chuckey, TN 37641
M: 191 Keys Road
Limestone, TN 37681
423-246-4631

Pine View FWB Church
P: 1510 Magic View Drive
Kingsport, TN 37660
M: 1212 Skelton Bluff Road
Kingsport, TN 37660

Van Hill FWB Church
P: 2194 Beech Creek Road
Rogersville, TN 37857
M: 301 Light Rd.
Rogersville, TN 37857

Mark McDavid
809 Stuffle Street
Kingsport, TN 37660
423-765-0779

Josh McKinney
277 Taylor Avenue
Elizabethton, TN 37643
423-963.0363

Dewayne Steele
1995 Jockey Road
Limestone, TN 37681
423-470-2322
dsteele@eastman.com

Chris Castle
626 Fordtown Road
Fall Branch, TN 37656
423-502-8847
revnurse@comcast.net

Roger Pete Smith
277 R.C. Barret Road
Kingsport, TN 37660
423-348-6803

Gary Cavin
345 Woodcrest DR
Kingsport, TN 37663
423-239-5994

Edward Maynard
268 Stewart Hills DR
Rogersville, TN 37857
423-293.9377

Alisa Strong
3953 Pear Street
Kingsport, TN 37664
423.335.3065

Sue Tomlinson
140 Gravelly Road
Kingsport, TN 37665
423.246.4442

Hattie Gosnell
3615 Newport Highway
Greeneville, TN 37743
423-638-5639

Ann Conant
981 Main Street
Surgoinville, TN 37873
423-345-3104

Dianna Smith
277 R.C. Barrett Rd
Kingsport, TN 37660
423-348-6803

Dee Cavin
345 Woodcrest Dr.
Kingsport, TN 37663
423.293.5994

Annette Jones
301 Light Rd
Rogersville, TN 37857
423.348.6571

Annual Letter From Quarterly Meeting to District Association or District Association to State Association

Association Name Union Free Will Baptist Association
 Meeting Location Mainstay Conference, Pigeon Forge, TN Date Nov. / 13-15 / 2017 (month/day/year)
 Reporting Period August / 2016 to September / 2017 (month/year)
 Moderator John Buchanan Phone (423) 972-1394
 Address 1242 Pisgah Road Email john.buchanan45@yahoo.com
 City Greeneville State TN Zip 37743
 Clerk Edward Maynard Phone (423) 293.9377
 Address 268 Stewart Hills Dr. Email Edmaynard13@peoplepc.com
 City Rogersville State TN Zip 37857

Delegates

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| 1. _____ | 4. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 5. _____ |
| 3. _____ | |

A. CHURCH CHARACTERISTICS

1. Number of churches 50
2. Number of churches reporting 50
3. Number of churches:
 - Within city limits 13
 - Rural 37
4. Total number of churches with:
 - Full-time pastors 26
 - Bi-vocational pastors 23

B. MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

1. Baptisms 212
2. Members added 156
3. Members lost 168
4. Membership 3863

C. STEWARDSHIP INFORMATION

1. Income of all churches \$ 3,055,905
2. Number of churches with budgets 5

D. BUILDING INFORMATION

1. Number of churches with parsonages 12
2. Value of all church property including parsonages \$ 19,706,980.00

E. GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Number of ordained ministers 83
 Licensed ministers 5
 (Attach names, addresses, and phone numbers)
2. Number of ordained deacons 107
3. Number of:
 - Daycares 0
 - Christian Schools 0
 - Bible Institutes 0
 - Colleges 0
4. Sunday School enrollment 2419

F. ASSOCIATIONAL PROPERTY (Camp, school, etc.)

Name none
 Value \$ 0

District association minutes requested _____ State association minutes requested 70
 Representation fees enclosed: Quarterly \$ _____ District \$ _____ State \$ 7,500.00 National \$ 7,500.00

Print completed form and send to district or state association as appropriate. Please attach recommendations and requests to this form.

Constitution, By-Laws, and Standing Rules of the Union Free Will Baptist Association

PREAMBLE

The Union Free Will Baptist Association having adopted the Covenant and Treatise of the National Association of Free Will Baptists is organized to unify and promote the interest of its members, Quarterly meetings and the common cause of the Redeemer.

ARTICLE I: NAME

This body shall be known hereafter as the Union Free Will Baptist Association.

ARTICLE II: MEMBERSHIP

The Association shall be composed of ministers, deacons, and elected delegates from member Quarterly meetings. The Women Active for Christ shall be represented by five (5) members. Each Quarterly meeting holding membership in the Association shall furnish the Association with a list of certified delegates or alternates from the various churches, each church being allowed one (1) delegate or alternate for every twenty members or fraction thereof.

ARTICLE III: DISCIPLE

The Association shall have the right to settle any question of disciple, doctrine or usage that may properly come before it from any of the Quarterly meetings composing said Association or act upon any appeal made by any of the churches which constitute the various Quarterly meetings, provided the principles of Matthew 18:15-17 have been followed. Such appeal shall be signed by the pastor and clerk of a local church or the moderator and clerk of a Quarterly meeting. The above must be forwarded by mail or in person to the Clerk of the Association at least ten (10) days prior to the next session.

ARTICLE IV: OFFICERS

The Officers of this Association shall be moderator, assistant moderator, clerk, assistant clerk, treasurer, and assistant treasurer. Each officer shall be nominated by the nominating committee or from the floor of the Association and elected by a majority vote of those present and voting at each regular session. Elected officers shall hold office until their successors are duly elected and installed. The moderator and assistant moderator shall serve a term of three (3) years and shall not succeed themselves until they have set out for a period of one (1) term. The clerk and treasurer and their assistants shall serve indefinitely subject to satisfactory performance or resignation.

Section 1: Limits on Officers

Officers of the Union Free Will Baptist Associational Organization shall not be permitted to hold additional offices or standing committee positions in the Association.

ARTICLE V: GENERAL BOARD

Section 1: Membership

The General Board shall be composed of then (10) members including the moderator, assistant moderator, clerk, treasurer, president and clerk of the Minister's Conference, moderators of the Quarterly meetings and one (1) member from the Ordaining Council.

1. If the Quarterly meeting moderator already serves on the General Board, then the assistant moderator shall serve as the board member.
 2. If both the moderator and assistant moderator of the Quarterly meeting already serve on the General Board, then the moderator will appoint a proxy.

Section 2: Duties

The duties of the General Board shall be as follows:

1. To act on behalf of the Association in matters demanding its consideration between regular sessions of the Association.
2. To arrange for meetings of the Association, provide programs and change the time and place of meeting if necessary.
3. To fill all vacancies in the Association which may be caused by death, resignation or any other cause between regular sessions of the Association.
4. To make written reports of all its work and make such recommendations as deemed necessary to the Association.

Section 3: Meetings

It shall be the duty of the General Board to meet at a regular or called session of the Association and as often as the welfare of the cause may demand in extra sessions. No meeting of the General Board shall be allowed to transact business unless a majority of the members are present, but a minority may meet and adjourn for discussion of any subject which may be a vital interest. All members must have ten (10) days written notice stating the purpose, time and place of meeting. All transactions must be favored by the majority of those present. Written records shall be kept and presented to the Association.

Section 4: Proxy

No member shall delegate authority to another member of said board to cast his vote for him, but may send a proxy. A proxy must be a member of good standing of the Association and have written authority from the member for whom he acts.

Section 5: Qualifications

All ministers serving on the General Board shall carry a Card of Good Standing from the Minister's Conference of the Union Free Will Baptist Association.

ARTICLE VI: BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

The Association shall appoint or elect such temporary or standing boards and committees as it deems necessary for the conduct of its regular business.

ARTICLE VII: MEETINGS

The Association shall hold regular meetings at a time and place to be determined during the last regular session and made known before adjournment. The general Board may call a special meeting when extreme necessity demands provided the clerk of each Quarterly meeting has been notified at least fourteen (14) days before the date of the meeting. The delegates present shall constitute a quorum for special meetings.

ARTICLE VIII: DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 1: Moderator

Preside over all meetings, see that the Constitution and By-Laws and Standing Rules are followed, insure discussions are carried on in a Christian spirit, and exercise all rights and privileges of any other member. The right to vote shall be exercised only to break a tie. While presiding, he shall only speak when providing explanation.

Section 2: Assistant Moderator

Assist the Moderator in his duties and preside in the Moderator's absence.

Section 3: Clerk

Keep a record of all meetings and publish this record for distribution to the various Quarterly meetings.

Section 4: Assistant Clerk

Assist the Clerk in his duties and assume such duties in the absence of the Clerk.

Section 5: Treasurer

Receive and disburse all monies of the Association, keeping an accurate record of such transactions, and reporting the same to the Association and the General Board.

Section 6: Assistant Treasurer

Assist the Treasurer in his duties and assume such duties in the absence of the Treasurer.

ARTICLE XI: Statement on Marriage and Human Sexuality

The Union FWB Association's position regarding marriage and human sexuality is one consistent with that presented in the Holy Scriptures.

We believe, based on the teaching of the Scriptures in the Old and New Testaments, that marriage is an institution ordained by God from the foundation of the world and is intended as a lifelong union of one man and one woman. This understanding is supported by the account of creation in Genesis, chapters 1 and 2. Genesis 1:26-27 indicates that God created man in His own image, as male and female. The passage implies that the unity of a man and woman in marriage is in some way reflective of the image of God in mankind.

Genesis 2:18 provides a more detailed account, relating that God created the first man, Adam, and decided that it was not good for him to be alone. God indicated that He would make "an help meet for him," which means a helper suitable for or matching him. Then God brought all of the animals to Adam, but none of them was such a suitable helper; so God created Eve, the first woman, from part of Adam himself. God did not create a second man to be Adam's helper, or an assortment of multiple women, but one woman. Together they were man and wife and had "no shame" or sin in their union (Genesis 2:18-25).

Jesus Christ reaffirmed the teaching of the Old Testament when He said, as recorded in Matthew 19:4-6: "Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female, and said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one

flesh? Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.”

The Apostle Paul states in Ephesians 5:22-32 that marriage is not merely a human institution, but is a special, divine metaphor that illustrates the union of Christ and the Church. For this reason also, only a union between one man and one woman can be a Biblical marriage because no other union—whether of two men, two women, or any other arrangement—could illustrate the relationship between Christ and His church in accord with this Biblical teaching.

First Corinthians 6:9-11 condemns a variety of lifestyles including those associated with adultery, prostitution, and homosexuality. Indeed, the Bible condemns as sexual immorality—“fornication” in the Authorized Version—all sexual intercourse outside marriage as defined above. It also encourages Christians to flee from sexual immorality because of its destructive effects and because the body of the Christian is the temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 3:16; 6:12-20).

Romans 1:18-32 makes clear that it is not only sinful to engage in homosexual unions, but also to approve of such sins in others or to encourage their practice. As a result, in order to maintain our consistent Christian witness, we cannot sanction, approve, or promote in any way adultery or any other form of sexual immorality—including, but not limited to, pornography, pedophilia, polygamy, bestiality, or homosexual unions. This is made clear in many passages in the Old and New Testaments.

Our Association follows what the Bible reveals as the “sure foundation” of the teachings of Jesus Christ and his apostles (Matthew 7:24-29; 1 Corinthians 14:37). If our Association is to bear the name Christian authentically, we are called to teach and practice these teachings and are not at liberty to depart from them for a different authority. Though we strive to live peaceably with all people and to obey legitimate government authority, if the two come into conflict about matters as foundational as marriage, we must ultimately obey God rather than man (Acts 4:18-21).

Sexual activities outside of marriage, including but not limited to those named above, are inconsistent with the teachings of the Bible and the church. Lewd conduct; transgender behavior; and the creation, distribution, or viewing of pornography are incompatible with God’s purpose for human sexuality.

This position is also affirmed in the Treatise of the Faith and Practice of the National Association of Free Will Baptist, Appendix to chapter IV, Section 1. (See Preamble).

In accordance with this stated position regarding marriage and human sexuality:

1. Member Quarterly Meetings whose churches fail to exercise church discipline when a member church deviates from this statement has the responsibility to discipline those churches. Failure to do so will result in disciplinary action of the Union Free Will Baptist Association toward that Quarterly Meeting.
2. If an officer of the Union Free Will Baptist Association or a delegate sent to the Union Free Will Baptist Association deviates from this statement, they will fall under the discipline of the Union Free Will Baptist Association.
3. In either case, the specific disciplinary action to be taken will be determined by the body of the Union Free Will Baptist Association.

ARTICLE X: AMENDMENTS

This Constitution may be amended by any regular session of the Association by two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present and voting, provided the change is recommended in writing at least one day before the vote.

BY-LAWS

1. A portion of Scripture shall be read and prayer offered at the beginning of each morning and afternoon session of the Association and a prayer shall be offered as a benediction at the close of each session.
2. The Moderator or the Assistant Moderator shall call the Association to order at the hour designated by the General Board.
3. Each Quarterly meeting is required to present a report of the annual work of its churches. Refusal of the Quarterly meeting to report serves as just cause for investigation and discipline at the discretion of the association.
4. In the event a Quarterly meeting desires membership in another Free Will Baptist Association, a majority vote is required for a letter of good standing.
5. The most recent version of Robert's Rules of Order shall serve as the final authority in parliamentary procedure.
6. Visitors may be invited to sit as advisory council and/or be granted permission by the moderator to speak, but in no case shall be allowed to vote.
7. The moderator shall allow discussion carried on in a Christian spirit. Discussion which sows discord or division will not be tolerated. Anyone refusing the admonition of the moderator shall be barred from participation until public repentance has been made and accepted.
8. Those desiring to speak shall rise to their feet and address the moderator as "Brother Moderator", but shall not speak further until recognized.
9. No speaker shall be allowed to speak more than two (2) minutes or twice on the same subject without permission of the moderator.
10. This Constitution, By-Laws and Standing Rules supersedes all other revisions.
11. These By-Laws may be amended at any regular session of the association by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of those present and voting providing the amendment has been submitted in writing at least one (1) day before the vote.

STANDING RULES

1. A yearly representation fee to go to the Tennessee State Association of Free Will Baptists and the Union Association General Fund shall accompany each church report to the Association. It is the responsibility of each quarterly meeting to turn in representation dues (\$350.00) for each church listed on the quarterly meeting clerk's report to the Union Association. The report and dues must be submitted by the time of the annual meeting of the Union Association each year. A check from the quarterly meeting in the amount of \$350.00 per church listed on the report must accompany the quarterly meeting report to the Union Association. It is the responsibility of the quarterly meeting to ensure that only churches for which full dues are being paid are listed on the clerk's report to the Union Association.
2. The moderator, clerk and treasurer will receive an annual honorarium to be determined by the Association.
3. It will be the responsibility of the Committee on Committees to also serve as the Nominating Committee.
4. The treasurer will be able to borrow monies from other funds to pay Associational bills.

5. General Board members shall receive reimbursement for each mile driven in the line of duty based upon the current IRS mileage allowance.
6. All meetings of the Association shall convene with open doors except when resolved into committee of the whole.
7. All ministers not in good standing in the minister's Conference of the Union Free Will Baptist Association shall be denied voting privileges in all business of the Association and will be prohibited from serving as officers or holding a standing committee position.
8. All speakers assigned to the program of the association will be asked by the Program Committee to use the authorized King James Version of the Bible.
9. Standing Rules may be amended at any regular session of the association by a majority vote of those present and voting.

Official Document of Governance

As Amended and Adopted

Union Free Will Baptist Association

August, 20, 2016

Minutes of the Union Free Will Baptist Association Ministers' Conference

August 24-25, 2017

First Free Will Baptist Church of Morrison City

President:	Bro. Jesse Hartgrove	Vice-President:	Rev. Chris Castle
Clerk/Treasurer	Bro.. Edward Maynard	Asst. Clerk/Treasurer:	Rev. Danny Willis

Ordaining Council:

Chairman:	Rev. Billy Gragg (2019)	Central
Vice Chairman:	Rev. Noah Taylor (2020)	Eastern
Clerk:	Rev. Brian Capps (2018)	Northern

*Addresses, Phone Numbers, and E-Mail Addresses are on the back page of these Minutes.

Proceedings of the Ministers' Conference

August 24, 2017

Brother Jesse Hartgrove open with scripture, reading from Acts 16:30-32 and Bro. Willie Winters led us in prayer.

Our President, Jesse Hartgrove, called the meeting to order. The delegates were seated. There was 21 present. The visitors were recognized and seated in an advisory capacity.

Bro. Edward Maynard gave the treasurer's report. A partial report was given and a full report will be in the reports section of these minutes. MSC

Brother Edward Maynard gave the clerk's report. MSC to adopt Clerk's report.

MSC to for the following honorariums: Clerk: \$400.00, and \$300.00 for the speaker.

MSC to adopt the 2016 Minutes of the Ministers' Conference.

Rev. Gary Hodges gave the Ordaining Council Report.

1. Bro. Johnny Ragon was granted and exception to Pastor a non-Union Association church.
2. Bro. Steve Hartley was recommended for ordination.
3. Bro Ross Helton was recommended for ordination
4. Bro. Stuart Harmon was recommended to have his credentials ratified.

The corrected Constitution and By-Laws were presented to the body. MSC to table and until the next day.

It was noted that Bro. Thurman Pate appreciated the donation to his walk-a-thon account and the inspiring letter that was written to him.

MSC to recess until Friday, August 25, 2017, 3:00 PM.

Bro. Tim York gave part one of the Seminar, "Standing at the Intersection of "Tolerant Culture and Offensive Faith".

July 25, 2017 3:00 PM

Meeting was called back in session. Bro. Danny Willis led us in prayer and Bro. Jesse Hartgrove read scripture, John 15:18.

The delegates were seated and the Nominating Committee gave their report. (see report)

There was no new business to be brought before the body.

Old Business: MSC to bring the Constitution and By-Laws from table as corrected. There was one correction, Article IX Section C Item 12, because of a typographical error. Should be Is practicing, not Is not practicing. The corrected version of the Constitution and By-Laws were adopted by more than a two thirds majority.

MSC to recess.

Bro. Tim York gave Part two of the seminar, "Standing at the Intersection of a Tolerant Culture and Offensive Faith."

Friday, August 25, 2017 Ordination Service

The Union Free Will Baptist Ministers' Conference met for the purpose of ordaining and ratifying credentials of our ministers.

The Union Youth Camp singers blessed us with their singing and selection of songs. Some of the songs were, "Glory to His Name", "At Calvary", "What a Friend We Have in Jesus", and "I Believe."

Bro. Jesse Hartgrove called the Ministers' Conference to order and read scripture, **I Timothy 1:12.**
1Ti 1:12 And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry;

An offering \$233.00 was received and Bro. Chris Dotson led us in a congregational song, "Since Jesus Came Into My Heart"

Bro. Jesse Hartgrove introduced the Ordaining Council members. Chariman: Rev. Billy Gragg, Clerk: Rev. Gary Hodges, and Bro.

. Edward Maynard who was standing in proxy for Rev. Danny Conn.

Bro. Billy Gragg introduced the candidates. For ordination: Bro. Ross Helton, and Bro. Steve Hartley. For ratification of credentials: Stuart Harmon.

Bro. Billy Gragg brought a powerful message from II Kings 7:3-4. "Why Doesn't Somebody Do Something". Bro. Gary Hodges gave the charge to the ministers and Bro. Keith Williams led us in the prayer and laying on of hands. Bro. Edward Maynard presented the preachers their Certificates of Ordination and Bro. Stuart also received a certificate of ratification

Bro. Jesse Hartgrove asked the preachers to stand at the door so everyone could shake their hands and encourage them.

MSC to adjourn.

REPORTS:

Ordaining Council Report:

The Ordaining Council met **Monday August 21, 2017**, at the Oak Grove FWB Church.

Members present: Billy Gragg, Gary Hodges, and Edward Maynard as proxy for Danny Conn.

- (1) The council met with Bro. Johnny (Bo) Ragon, who petitioned the Council for exception to pastor a non-Union Association church. The church is a non-denominational church (Christian Heritage) at Greeneville, TN

The Council recommend we grant the exception.

- (2) The council met with Bro. Steve Hartley, after talking and seeing the growth of Bro. Steve's ministry in the past year

The Council recommends him to be ordained.

- (3) Bro. Ross Helton came before the Council after completing his course of study. He also is now Pastoring the West Green FWB Church.

The Council recommends him to be ordained

- (4) Bro. Stuart Harmon came before the Council for the purpose of Ratification of credentials. He is a member of the Oak Grove FWB Church. He came with a letter from the church. He is a graduate of the Southeastern FWB College. He has been ministering for almost 2 years in the church.

We the Ordaining council recommend that Bro. Harmon's credentials be ratified

**Respectfully Submitted
Gary Hodges**

Nominating Committee for the Ministers' Conference of the Union Free Will Baptist Association:

Office	Nominated
President	Jesse Hartgrove
Vice President	Chris Castle
Clerk/Treasurer	Edward Maynard
Asst. Clerk/Treasurer	Danny Willis

Ordaining Council member from the Northern Quarterly: The Nominating Committee will nominate the Ordaining Council member with the recommendation from the Quarterly License Committee of the Quarterly from which the nominee is to be nominated. The License Committee of the Northern Quarterly Meeting is: Brian Capps, Kevin Rose, and Mark McDavid.

Nominated for the Ordaining Council:

Northern Quarterly	Brian Capps (2018)
Eastern Fellowship	Noah Taylor (2020)

Please Nominate a Nominating Committee for 2018

Nominating Committee	Nominated:
	Chair: Dennis Caldwell (C)
	Gary Cavin. (N)
	Noah Taylor (E)

All who were nominated were elected.

**Planning Committee of the Ministers' Conference of the Union Free Will Baptist Association.
March 14, 2016.**

Those present Jesse Hartgrove, Danny Willis, Chris Castle, Ed Maynard, Gary Hodges, Danny Conn (by speaker phone), and John Buchanan in advisory capacity.

Bro. Jesse Hartgrove called the meeting to order and read from I Timothy 1:13. Bro. Danny Conn led us in prayer.

The purpose of the meeting is to plan for the August 24-25, 2017 meeting of the Ministers' Conference.

MSC to adopt the following as the agenda for the meeting.

Thursday, Aug. 24, 2017, 3:00 PM

1. Brother Jesse Hartgrove to call meeting to order and read Scripture.

2. Prayer

3. Treasury Report

4. Clerk Report

The following are motions from this committee:

1. Honorariums: Clerk: \$400.00 Speaker: \$300.00.

3. Ordaining Council Report

4. Nominating Committee Report

5. New Business: This committee moves to adopt the Constitution and By-Laws revisions. (A copy of the revised Constitution and By-Laws are on the registration table.)

Recess:

Seminar: Bro. Tim York

Friday, August 25, 2017, 3:00 PM

1. Scripture and Prayer

2. New Business

3. Old Business

A. Constitution Revision

Seminar: Bro. Tim York.

MSC to adjourn.

Ministers' Conference Financial Report
September 1, 2016 Through August 31, 2017

RECEIPTS			
Balance Forward			\$ 1,418.09
Eastern Fellowship			70.00
Central Quarterly Meeting			
Northern Quarterly Meeting			220.00
Offering			653.00
Interest			0.66
Total			\$ 2,361.75
EXPENDITURES			
Newport Printing	10/14/16	1040	\$ 190.00
Jesse Hargrove, BGCK			
Walmart	06/22/17	1041	109.59
Jesse Hargrove, BGCK			
Tim York (Seminar	8/25/2017	1042	300.00
Ed Maynard	8/25/2017	1043	400.00
US Postal Service			
Total			\$ 999.59
Balance on Hand			1362.16

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS OF THE UNION FREE WILL BAPTIST MINISTERS' CONFERENCE

Preamble

The Ministers' Conference of the Union Association of Free Will Baptists, having adopted the Covenant and *Treatise of the Faith and Practices of the National Association of Free Will Baptists*, is organized to unify and promote the interests of its members and the common cause of the Redeemer by providing opportunities for ministerial fellowship, promoting efficiency among its members, and safeguarding the integrity and honor of its members.

ARTICLE I: NAME

This body shall be known as the Ministers' Conference of the Union Association of Free Will Baptists.

ARTICLE II: MEMBERSHIP

SECTION A: MEMBERS

The membership shall be comprised of all ordained and licensed ministers who are members of the Union Association of Free Will Baptists and who maintain good and regular standing in the Ministers' Conference. Each member's rights are freely protected in accordance with the *Treatise of Faith and Practices of Free Will Baptists*. A member of the Ministers' Conference desiring to serve as the pastor of a church that is not a member of the Union Association may petition the Ordaining Council for an exception so his membership in the Ministers' Conference may continue.

SECTION B: STANDING

Part 1: Good Standing

All members, including licensed ministers, who meet the following requirements, shall be issued a card of good standing signed by the President and Clerk of the Ministers' Conference.

1. Preach a minimum of twelve (12) sermons per calendar year, unless otherwise excused.
2. Report in person to a minimum of two (2) of his respective Quarterly Meetings, and report to each of his respective Quarterly Meetings in writing, unless otherwise excused by the Licensing Committee per ARTICLE VII: SECTION E: item 5 "ministers excused from reporting."
3. Maintain membership in a local church that is a member of the Union Association of Free Will Baptists, unless exempted according to ARTICLE II: SECTION B: Part 6: Pastoring Non-Union Association Churches.
4. Maintain moral character and sound doctrine.

Part 2: Not in Good Standing

All members failing to meet the requirements of ARTICLE II: SECTION B: Part 1: Good Standing shall receive the status of not in good standing with the Ministers' Conference and shall be denied all privileges of membership, including voting on Ministers' Conference business.

Part 3: Excused Members

Ministers who are physically unable to preach or retired may petition the Ministers' Conference to be excused from fulfilling the requirements of ARTICLE II: SECTION B: Part 1, item 1: "Preach a minimum of 12 sermons," and item 2: "Report in person."

Part 4: Annual Report

The Licensing Committee of the Quarterly Meetings will be responsible for collecting the quarterly reports of each minister and then forwarding said reports to the Union Association Ordaining Council and the Clerk of the Ministers' Conference prior to the annual Union Association Meeting.

Part 5: Card of Good Standing

Annually, at the beginning of each Union Association Meeting, each minister will pay the membership dues in an amount determined by the Ministers' Conference to the Ministers' Conference Clerk. Ministers in good standing pursuant to the provisions of this Constitution, By-Laws, and Standing Rules will receive a card of good standing. Such card will not be issued without the payment of the necessary fee. This card is good for a one-year period, provided the minister remains compliant to the provisions of this Constitution, By-Laws, and Standing Rules. Ministers who are not required to submit an annual report due to retirement or disability will be issued a permanent card of good standing, which need not be renewed each year, provided said minister continues to comply with the standards established by this Constitution, By-Laws, and Standing Rules.

Part 6: Pastoring Non-Union Association Churches

Ordained ministers presently in good standing with the Union Association Ministers' Conference may be granted an exception by the Ordaining Council for the purpose of retaining their membership while pastoring a non-Union Association church. The process is as follows:

1. The minister shall petition the Ordaining Council in writing via the minister's current Quarterly Meeting Licensing Committee, who, if approved, then recommends him to the Ordaining Council.
2. The minister is required to meet with the Ordaining Council at the annual Ordaining Council meeting prior to the next annual Union Association meeting.
3. The minister must maintain the requirements for good standing (ARTICLE II: SECTION B: Part 1: Good Standing) in his current Quarterly Meeting, but he will be exempt from required church membership (ARTICLE II: SECTION B: Part 1: item 3. "Maintain membership in a local church that is a member of the Union Association").
4. He will report in person to the Licensing Committee annually while pastoring a non-Union Association church.
5. If the minister fails to meet these expectations, he will forfeit his credentials and membership in the Ministers' Conference.

ARTICLE III: MEETINGS

The Ministers' Conference shall convene for its annual session at the venue of the Annual Meeting of the Union Association of Free Will Baptists and at the time designated by the General Board.

ARTICLE IV: OFFICERS

1. President
2. Vice President
3. Clerk
4. Assistant Clerk
5. Ordaining Council
 - Consisting of three (3) members. Elected for a three (3) year term with one member being elected each year in order of expiration of term.
6. Parliamentarian
 - Appointed by the President from among the membership for each session.
7. Any other officers that the Ministers' Conference deems necessary, provided such officers are elected by a majority vote of its members.

ARTICLE V: DUTIES OF OFFICERS

SECTION A: PRESIDENT

1. Preside over all meetings.
2. Enforce order and decorum while demanding a rigid respect for the Constitution, By-Laws, and Standing Rules of the Ministers' Conference and the Union Association of Free Will Baptists.
3. Ensure each member is given equal rights and privileges under the Constitution.
4. Be responsible for calling special sessions as necessary, setting the venue for such sessions, and notifying the members of such sessions.
5. Appoint all committees needful for the transaction of the Ministers' Conference business, unless otherwise provided for by the By-Laws.
6. Vote only in the instance of casting the deciding vote to break a tie, unless he relinquishes the Chair to another.

SECTION B: VICE PRESIDENT

1. Assume all the duties of the President in the President's absence, or if the office of the President is vacated.
2. Assist the President in the duties of his office.

SECTION C: CLERK

1. Keep a concise record of all proceedings, read them at the direction of the President, and forward the minutes to the Clerk of the Union Association to have them printed in booklet form as the Minutes, which are to be distributed among the members.
2. Receive and disburse all moneys raised by the Ministers' Conference in accordance with the direction of the Conference and submit a financial report each year at the annual meeting.
3. Be responsible for all correspondence as directed by the Ministers' Conference for communication with its members.
4. Keep a record of all members' last known addresses and notify them of any special sessions at least ten (10) days prior to such meeting.
5. By certified mail, notify any member who is not in good standing and/or whose credentials are revoked, and distribute a copy of this letter to the President.
6. Issue letter of good standing upon request of a sister association or conference. If such request coincides with the annual meeting of the Minister's Conference, the letter of good standing will be approved by the body of the Minister's Conference before being sent. If such request does not coincide with the annual meeting, the Clerk may issue a letter of good standing with the approval of the Ordaining Council. Details of each letter sent between annual meetings must be included in the Clerk's annual report to the Minister's Conference.

SECTION D: ASSISTANT CLERK

1. Assume all duties of the Clerk in the absence of the Clerk or if the office of the Clerk is vacated.
2. Assist the Clerk in the duties of his office.

SECTION E: ORDAINING COUNCIL

1. Immediately following the election of a new member at the Annual Meeting, the Ordaining Council shall meet and select from their number a Chairman, Vice Chairman, and Clerk who shall serve through the next session.
2. Investigate and question any and all candidates seeking admission to the Ministers' Conference and make recommendations for acceptance to the Ministers' Conference. An Ordaining Council decision to reject a candidate shall be final and need not be ratified by the Ministers' Conference.
3. Examine, recommend, and publicly ordain and/or recognize all candidates who have met the requirements of ARTICLE IX: SECTION C: LICENSEE CANDIDATES FOR ORDINATION; SECTION D: CANDIDATES FOR RATIFICATION OF CREDENTIALS; SECTION E: CANDIDATES FOR EXCHANGE OF CREDENTIALS; SECTION F: CANDIDATES FOR ORDINATION THAT HAVE GRADUATED FROM A CHRISTIAN COLLEGE unless otherwise stipulated.
4. Investigate all charges brought against a member, call the accused to a hearing, and make recommendations to the Ministers' Conference regarding the outcome of the hearing.
5. The actions of the Ordaining Council must be reviewed and ratified by the Ministers' Conference, except in the case of its rejecting a candidate for ordination, either in its annual session or a special session that may be called for that purpose.
6. No member of the Ordaining Council shall delegate authority to another member of the Ordaining Council to cast his vote for him on any matter. Any member of the Ordaining Council may, however, send a proxy on his behalf. The rules for proxies are as follows:
 - A. A proxy must be a Free Will Baptist from the same Quarterly Meeting as the Ordaining Council member and have a card of good standing from the Ministers' Conference.
 - B. Said proxy shall have the same authority as the Ordaining Council member.
 - C. Said proxy must have written authorization from the Ordaining Council member for whom he acts.
 - D. The Clerk of the Union Association of Free Will Baptists shall be a standing proxy on the Ordaining Council in case of absence of any Ordaining Council member, provided the absent member has not sent a proxy in his stead. In the event that an absent member has not sent a proxy and the standing proxy is not in attendance, the Ordaining Council may appoint a proxy who is an ordained minister in good standing.

ARTICLE VI: CREDENTIALS

SECTION A: OWNERSHIP OF CREDENTIALS

All certificates of ordination issued by the Ministers' Conference are the property of the Union Association of Free Will Baptists and are held in trust by the minister while he satisfies the requirements of good standing as stated in ARTICLE II: SECTION B: Part 1: Good Standing. The credentials of any member shall not be revoked until said minister has been examined by the Ordaining Council and found guilty of failure to comply with the requirements of ARTICLE II: SECTION B: Part 1: Good Standing.

SECTION B: VALID CREDENTIALS

All certificates of ordination shall be of indefinite duration with the provision that such certificates are only valid when accompanied by the annual card of good standing from the Ministers' Conference or if the certificates are ratified by another recognized Free Will Baptist Association, at which time they become the property of that Association.

ARTICLE VII: QUARTERLY MEETING LICENSING COMMITTEE

SECTION A: PURPOSE

The Licensing Committee of each Quarterly Meeting shall examine all candidates seeking a license to preach the Gospel as to their Christian experience, faithfulness to Christ and the local church, and their divine call to the ministry and grant such license as it deems appropriate; and they shall examine the written reports of the licensed and ordained ministers in their respective Quarterly Meetings.

SECTION B: REQUIREMENTS FOR OBTAINING LICENSE

1. When a local church is assured of the validity of a candidate's call to the ministry, the church is to send a letter of recommendation to the Licensing Committee of the Quarterly Meeting of which the church is a member.
2. The candidate must be a member of the church recommending him for a period of no less than one (1) year and attend said church faithfully unless fulfilling a preaching appointment elsewhere.
3. The candidate for licensure will complete an application for license that will be reviewed and acted upon by the Quarterly Meeting Licensing Committee. The completed application, along with references and written work, shall be placed in a file that will be presented in its entirety to the Union Association Ordaining Council prior to the candidate's examination for ordination.
4. The candidate must conform to the standards established in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9.

5. In addition to the completion of the license application, each candidate for licensure as a Free Will Baptist minister within the Union Association shall submit to a criminal background check. This background check and subsequent report will be held in the strictest confidence. The report will only be read by the President of the Ministers' Conference with any pertinent information being shared only with the respective candidate's quarterly Licensing Committee. Information revealed on this background check will not necessarily prohibit an individual from being licensed and ordained. However, refusal to submit to such examination and review will disqualify the candidate from the ordination process.
6. Upon the candidate's being granted a license to preach, his ministerial activity comes under the watch care of the Licensing Committee of the Quarterly Meeting of which he is a member.
7. The licensed minister must report by letter to all four (4) sessions of his respective Quarterly Meeting of which he is a member.
8. Whereas the ministry of the Ministers' Conference of the Union Association of Free Will Baptist includes ministries that utilize languages other than English, ministers from such ministries will be subject to comparable licensure and ordination requirements. For each work, a panel of leaders will be appointed by the President of the Ministers' Conference, and such panel shall institute comparable procedures based upon materials available in the language of such ministries.

SECTION C: MAINTAINING LICENSE

The Quarterly Meeting Licensing Committee grants the licensee a license to preach, subject to annual review by the Licensing Committee, and is bound by the following requirements:

1. Hold a license for a minimum of two (2) years, within the year of the Union Association Annual Meeting, before being considered for ordination.
2. Appear before the Licensing Committee of the Quarterly Meeting at each anniversary of his license in order to renew such license until he is ordained.
3. Adhere to all the provisions of ARTICLE VII: SECTION B: REQUIREMENTS FOR OBTAINING LICENSE of the Constitution, By-Laws and Standing Rules.

SECTION D: AUTHORITY OF THE LICENSING COMMITTEE

The Licensing Committee may refuse to recommend a candidate for ordination for any reason it deems appropriate, or may ask a licensee to serve an additional year under license. All such decisions are entirely at the discretion of the licensing committee and may not be appealed to the Ordaining Council.

SECTION E: ANNUAL REPORT OF THE LICENSING COMMITTEE

The Licensing Committee of the Quarterly Meetings shall submit an annual report to the Union Association of Free Will Baptists Ordaining Council as to its work performed within the conference year. The report must be in the hands of the Clerk of the Ordaining Council no later than Monday morning of the week that the Union Association of Free Will Baptists convenes for the Annual Meeting, and it shall include the following:

1. A list of all candidates examined and the action taken as a result to the examination.
2. A list of all ministers who are in good standing.
3. A list of all ministers who are not in good standing accompanied by a statement as to why such ministers are not in good standing.
4. A list of all ministers recommended for ordination, ratification of credentials, or exchange of credentials.
5. A list of all ministers who are excused from reporting.

A: Excused Members

An ordained minister desiring to retain his credentials in the Union Association and having need to be excused from attending and/or submitting his report long term must:

- Be retired from preaching or physically disabled.
- Petition his License Committee to recommend his being excused to the Minister's Conference Ordaining Council.

B: Temporarily Excused Members

Due to unforeseen circumstances, an ordained minister needing to be temporarily excused from attending and/or reporting to his Quarterly Meeting must petition his License Committee and maintain the requirements of ARTICLE II: SECTION B: Part 1, number 3: "Maintain membership in a local church that is a member of the Union Association," and number 4: "Maintain moral character and sound doctrine." When able to preach, he forfeits his excused status and he must resume reporting to and attending his Quarterly Meetings.

SECTION F: RECOMMENDING A LICENSEE FOR ORDINATION

Part 1: Requirements for Recommendation for Ordination

Quarterly Meeting Licensing Committees are prohibited to recommend any candidate to the Ordaining Council for ordination who does not meet the following requirements:

1. Has completed the required courses of study or written reports. (See ADDENDUM). (The Licensing Committee is required to submit a copy of the licensee's Ordination Examination when completed to the Ordaining Council, and to submit written reports on a quarterly basis per the schedule of the ADDENDUM of the Constitution and Bylaws.)
2. Has served at least two (2) consecutive years under license.
3. Has maintained a card of good standing within the Ministers' Conference.
4. Has not been married more than one (1) time and his former wife is still living.
5. Has not married a woman whose former husband is still living.
6. Appears before the Ordaining Council at its annual meeting.

Part 2: Licensee Responsibilities

On his initial appearance before the Ordaining Council, the licensee brings the following:

1. His completed Application for License to Preach.
2. A completed ordination examination.
3. A letter of recommendation from the Union association Free Will Baptist church of which he is a member.
4. The licensee must also ensure that he is on the Quarterly License Committee Annual report recommending him for ordination.

ARTICLE VIII: LICENSED MINISTER AS PASTOR

It is recommended that churches elect an ordained minister as pastor; however, a church may elect a licensed minister as pastor, subject to the following rules and limitations:

1. The licensee may, by virtue of being an elected pastor, moderate all church business meetings, and receive members into the church.
2. The licensee may administer all the ordinances of the Gospel except baptism. He may administer baptism if an ordained Free Will Baptist minister is present to assist him.
3. The licensee may not ordain deacons unless an ordained Free Will Baptist minister is present to assist him.
4. The licensee may not, under any circumstance, perform a marriage ceremony.
5. The licensee, as pastor, must satisfy the requirements of ARTICLE VII: SECTION B: Requirements for Obtaining License; additionally, he must attend two (2) of his respective Quarterly Meetings to remain in good standing, and he is expected to attend the Annual Meeting if possible.

ARTICLE IX: UNION ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS ORDAINING COUNCIL

SECTION A: PURPOSE

The Union Association of Free Will Baptists Ordaining Council shall examine all candidates for ordination, including those seeking to exchange or ratify their credentials, as to the candidates' Christian experience, faithfulness to Christ and the local church, and their divine call to the ministry, and they shall examine the annual reports of the Quarterly Meeting Licensing Committees in order to make a determination as to a member's standing within the Ministers' Conference.

SECTION B: MEETINGS

The regular annual meeting of the Ordaining Council will take place Monday morning, beginning at 9:00 AM at the venue of the Annual Meeting of the Union Association of Free Will Baptists for that particular year, for the purpose of examining candidates for ordination, ratification of credentials, and exchange of credentials. One member from each Quarterly Meeting's Licensing Committee is invited to participate with the Ordaining Council during the interview of candidates, but he will not have voting privileges in the decisions of the Ordaining Council. The Ordaining Council has the authority to call special meetings as it deems necessary to carry out its business.

SECTION C: CANDIDATES FOR ORDINATION

The Ordaining Council is not permitted to ordain any candidate who:

1. Does not display conclusive evidence of conversion.
2. Does not display reasonable and convincing evidence of a divine call to ministry.
3. Is morally or mentally unfit.
4. Has divorced a wife and married another while his divorced wife is still living.
5. Has married a divorcee whose husband is still living.
6. Has not been a member of the local church recommending him for a minimum of one (1) year.
7. Has not served under license for a minimum of two (2) years within the year of the annual meeting.
8. Has not been recommended by the Licensing Committee of the Quarterly Meeting of which the candidate's church is a member.

9. Has not completed the prescribed course of study listed in the ADDENDUM.
10. Has not passed the written exam to the satisfaction of the Ordaining Council.
11. Uses or sells alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs, or abuses prescription drugs.
12. Is practicing or participating in any form of sexual immorality, e.g., adultery, fornication, homosexuality, or pornography.
13. Advocates or speaks in modern-day tongues, i.e. the charismatic gift of tongues.
14. Advocates the New Age Movement or any cultic philosophy.

SECTION D: CANDIDATES FOR RATIFICATION OF CREDENTIALS

When a minister or pastor from another church or association affiliated with the National Association of Free Will Baptists unites with a church that is a member of the Union Association of Free Will Baptists, the following are required in order for the minister's credentials to be ratified:

1. The church of which he is a member will provide a letter of recommendation to the Licensing Committee of the Quarterly Meeting of which the church is a member.
2. The minister seeking ratification shall present a letter of good standing from the association in which his membership was previously held.
3. The minister seeking ratification shall be bound by the following items:
 - (1) Displays conclusive evidence of conversion.
 - (2) Displays reasonable and convincing evidence of a divine call to ministry.
 - (3) Is morally and mentally fit for ministry
 - (4) Has not divorced a wife and married another while his divorced wife is still living.
 - (5) Has not married a divorcee whose husband is still living.
 - (6) Has been recommended by the Licensing Committee of the Quarterly Meeting of which the candidate's church is a member.
 - (7) Does not use or sell alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs.
 - (8) Is not practicing or participating in any form of sexual immorality, e.g., adultery, fornication, homosexuality, or pornography.
 - (9) Does not advocate or speak in modern-day tongues, i.e. the charismatic gift of tongues.
 - (10) Does not advocate the New Age Movement or any cultic philosophy.
 - (11) Submit a copy of a completed Ordination Examination to the Licensing Committee to be sent to the Ordaining Council upon completion or with the annual report
4. The minister seeking ratification shall meet with the Ordaining Council during its annual meeting and bring his certificate of Ordination with him for ratification.

SECTION E: CANDIDATES FOR EXCHANGE OF CREDENTIALS

A candidate desiring the credentials of the Union Association that has been ordained in any church or denomination not affiliated with the National Association of Free Will Baptists must satisfy the following requirements:

1. The Union Association church of which he is a minister shall recommend him at the next Quarterly Meeting by letter to the Quarterly Meeting Licensing Committee for exchange of credentials.
2. The minister shall be subject to an oral examination from the Quarterly Meeting Licensing Committee. The questions asked can come from the Ordination exam. In the event that he does not provide adequate answers to the questions, it is recommended that he obtain the required books of study and is instructed to complete the written ordination exam and report back to the Quarterly Meeting Licensing Committee.
3. The minister seeking an exchange of credentials shall be bound by the following items:
 - (1) Displays conclusive evidence of conversion.
 - (2) Displays reasonable and convincing evidence of a divine call to ministry.
 - (3) Is morally and mentally fit for ministry.
 - (4) Has not divorced a wife and married another while his divorced wife is still living.
 - (5) Has not married a divorcee whose husband is still living.
 - (6) Has been recommended by the Licensing Committee of the Quarterly Meeting of which the candidate's church is a member.
 - (7) Does not use or sell alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs, or abuses prescription drugs.
 - (8) Is not practicing or participating in any form of sexual immorality, e.g., adultery, fornication, homosexuality, or pornography.
 - (9) Does not advocate or speak in modern-day tongues, i.e. the charismatic gift of tongues.
 - (10) Does not advocate the New Age Movement or any cultic philosophy.
 - (11) Submit a copy of a completed Ordination Examination to the Licensing Committee to be sent to the Ordaining Council upon completion or with the annual report

4. The minister seeking an exchange of credentials shall meet with the Ordaining Council during its annual meeting and shall bring his current certificate of ordination. If an exchange is granted, the minister may keep his previous certificate of ordination as a keepsake.

SECTION F: CANDIDATES FOR ORDINATION THAT HAVE GRADUATED FROM A CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

It is highly recommended that a candidate desiring credentials in the Union Association enter the ordination process one year before graduation. A candidate desiring the credentials of the Union Association as an ordained minister must satisfy the following requirements:

1. The candidate must be a graduate of a Christian college and possess a degree that satisfies the Ordaining Council.
2. The candidate must meet all requirements as detailed in ARTICLE VII: SECTION B: Requirements for Obtaining License.
3. The candidate must be licensed for a period of one (1) year before being considered for ordination, unless exempted by special circumstances and approved by the Ordaining Council.
4. The candidate must submit to the Ordaining Council a copy of his college transcripts.
5. The candidate must submit to the Ordaining Council a completed Ordination exam.
6. The candidate must submit to the Ordaining Council a letter of recommendation from his local church.
7. The candidate must submit to the Ordaining Council a letter of recommendation from his Quarterly Meeting.

ARTICLE X: BOOKS AND STUDY COURSES FOR CANDIDATES

See ADDENDUM

ARTICLE XI: DISCIPLINE OF MINISTERS

SECTION A: THE LOCAL CHURCH

The local church may discipline an ordained or licensed minister with respect to his standing within the local church. However, the local church cannot nullify an ordained or licensed minister's standing in the Ministers' Conference, as such status is determined solely by the Ordaining Council, or in the case of licensed ministers, by the Licensing Committee of his quarterly meeting.

SECTION B: THE MINISTERS' CONFERENCE

The following rights are vested in the Ministers' Conference:

1. Discipline of its members.
2. Settlement of any and all questions of conduct, doctrine, and character.
3. Determination of whom and under what condition its members may be found in good standing.
4. All credentials are subject to recall by the Ministers' Conference, which, through its Ordaining Council, may call for them at its discretion.

No appeal may be made regarding disciplinary action.

SECTION C: CHARGES AGAINST A MINISTER

A minister against whom charges are presented shall be presumed innocent of such charges until proven guilty beyond any reasonable doubt. The full consideration of the charged minister's standing as a Christian brother must be made prior to submitting charges. Therefore, no charge may be considered that does not conform to the following:

1. Charges against a member by another member shall not be heard until the person submitting the charges has dealt with the accused according to the principles of Matthew 18:15-18, and the charges must bear the signature of a minimum of one (1) other member in good standing.
2. Charges against a member by a non-member minister shall not be heard unless such charges are confirmed by a minimum of two (2) two ministers in good standing, and the charges must bear the signature of the said two (2) members in good standing.
3. Charges against a member by a local church shall not be heard until the majority of the members of that church have confirmed such charges and approved the bringing of the charge to such Ministers' Conference.
4. A written notice containing the specific charges and identifying the time and place of a hearing to pertaining to the charges must be furnished to the accused minister via certified mail no less than one (1) month prior to his hearing before the Ordaining Council.

SECTION D: RESPONSIBILITIES OF PARTIES INVOLVED IN CHARGES

Part 1: The Accusers

The burden of proof of any accusation shall be upon the accusers and shall not devolve upon the Ordaining Council or the ministers who sign the charges. However, the ministers who sign such charges must be prepared to support their reasoning for affirming the charges.

Part 2: The Accused

A minister who is not willing to defend himself before his accusers forfeits his right to retain his credentials.

SECTION E: REINSTATEMENT

A minister who has been deposed may be reinstated if he provides sufficient evidence of true repentance and obtains a recommendation from the Ordaining Council.

ARTICLE XII: AMENDMENTS

The Constitution, By-Laws, and Standing Rules of the Ministers' Conference of the Union Association of Free Will Baptists may be amended at any regular session of the Ministers' Conference by a two-thirds (2/3) vote, provided the amendment is submitted in writing and laid on the table a minimum of one (1) day prior to the vote being taken..

ARTICLE XIII: MISSION CHURCHES

A mission church that is within our associational fellowship shall have the same rights in recommending men for licensing, ordination, ratification of credentials, and exchange of credentials as an organized member church. Faithful service in a mission church that is within our associational fellowship shall earn a candidate the same rights as membership in an organized member church.

BY-LAWS

1. A portion of Scripture shall be read from the King James Version of the Bible by the President and prayer offered at the beginning of each session, regular or called, and all meetings shall be closed with prayer or a benediction.
2. The President or Vice President shall call the meeting to order at the venue determined by the program committee of the Union Association of Free Will Baptists. In the event that both are absent, the Clerk shall take charge of the election of as *President pro tem* to serve until one or both are present or until a regular presiding officer has been elected and installed.
3. The most recent version of *Robert's Rules of Order* shall serve as the final authority in parliamentary procedure.
4. All ministers serving churches in the Union Association of Free Will Baptists are encouraged to become affiliated with the Ministers' Conference. A non-member minister, being called to a pastorate, may assume charge of a work within the Ministers' Conference, but it is requested that he submit his credentials to the Ordaining Council for approval and receive an endorsement at the next annual meeting for the position which he holds.
5. Any member moving his membership to another denomination without first securing a letter of recommendation from the Ministers' Conference shall be dropped from the rolls.
6. All questions of faith, practice, moral conduct, and spiritual conduct shall be decided and disposed by the Ministers' Conference upon the recommendation of the Ordaining Council.
7. *If a minister is unable to attend the annual Ministers' Conference he must request to be excused by submitting a written explanation to the Clerk of the Ministers' Conference.* Any member who fails to attend two (2) consecutive sessions of the Ministers' Conference, unless retired or excused due to illness or other providential hindrance, shall be investigated and, if found to be careless, admonished by the Ordaining Council. If he refuses to accept the prescribed disciplinary action, the member shall be declared not in good standing.
8. Visitors to the Ministers' Conference may be seated as advisory Council and may be permitted to speak. Under no circumstance will a visitor be permitted to cast a vote on Ministers' Conference business.
9. The presiding officer shall not allow any discussion that is not carried on in a Christian spirit.
10. The Licensing Committee of each Quarterly Meeting must report any ordained minister who is not in good standing to the Ordaining Council with reasons stated as to why the minister is not in good standing.
11. The Constitution, By-Laws, and Standing Rules shall supersede any and all rules that have passed in previous sessions.
12. These By-Laws may be amended at any regular session of the Ministers' Conference by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of those present and voting, provided the amendment has been submitted in writing at least one (1) day prior to the vote.

STANDING RULES

1. A quorum shall consist of members present and in good standing for any meeting
2. An honorarium in an amount determined by the Ministers' Conference shall be given to the featured speaker(s) at the annual session of the Ministers' Conference.
3. Standing rules may be amended at any regular session of the Ministers' Conference by a majority vote of those present and voting.

ADDENDUM

SECTION A: REQUIRED STUDIES WITH REPORT

- 1st Quarter: Read the entire Bible over the licensing period⁶. Give a synopsis on the possibility of apostasy using three passages of Scripture.
- 2nd Quarter: *Free Will Baptist Doctrines*, J.D. O'Donnell
- 3rd Quarter: *How to Prepare Bible Messages*, James Braga.
- 4th Quarter: *Free Will Baptist Handbook*, Matt Pinson.
- 5th Quarter: *Church Administration Handbook*, Bruce Powers.
- 6th Quarter: *Biblical Preaching*, Haddon Robinson.
- 7th Quarter: *Grace, Faith and Free Will*, Robert Picirilli.
- 8th Quarter: *Biblical Ethics*, Leroy Forlines

SECTION B: SUGGESTED READING

- Constitution and By-Laws of the Union Association and Ministers' Conference
- Christ Centered Preaching*, Bryan Chapell
- Christian Ethics in a Postmodern World*, James Eckman
- Competent to Counsel*, Jay E. Adams
- Four Views on Eternal Security*, Matt Pinson
- Lifestyle Evangelism*, Joe Aldrich
- Marriage, Divorce, and Remarriage*, Jay E. Adams
- My Utmost for His Highest* (updated), Oswald Chambers
- Power Through Prayer*, E. M. Bounds
- Quest for Truth*, Leroy Forlines
- Spiritual Leadership*, J. Oswald Sanders
- Surprising Insights From the Unchurched*, Tom Rainer
- Teacher, Leader, Shepherd: The New Testament Pastor*, Robert Picirilli
- Teaching to Change Lives*, Howard Hendricks
- The Soul Winner*, Charles H. Spurgeon
- The Universe Next Door: A Basic Worldview*, James W. Sire
- Why Revival Tarries*, Leonard Ravenhill

SECTION C: SUGGESTED TOOLS FOR SERMON PREPARATION

- New Strong's Exhaustive Concordance for the Bible*, James Strong, Thomas Nelson
- Unger's Bible Dictionary*; *New Nelson's Bible Dictionary*; *Holman Bible Dictionary*, etc.)
- International Standard Bible Encyclopedia*
- Randall House Bible Commentaries*
- Wuest's Word Studies* (NT, 4 Vol. Set)
- PC Study Bible, WORDsearch, Logos, or other Bible software (includes many study tools listed plus more)
- Beacon Bible Commentary* (10 Vol. Set)
- Preacher's Sourcebook* (annual publication from Nelson)
- Unger's Commentary on the Old Testament*, Merrill Unger
- Barnes' Notes on the Old and New Testaments*, Albert Barnes
- Nave's Topical Bible*, Orville J. Nave
- Treasury of Scripture Knowledge*, Charles Spurgeon

Official Document of Governance
As Amended and Adopted
Union Association of Free Will Baptists
Ministers' Conference
August 25, 2017

**Ministers of the Ministers'
Conference 2017
All Ministers are Ordained
and in Good Standing unless
otherwise stated.**

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