

**MINUTES**  
**OF THE**  
**SEVENTY-FIRST ANNUAL SESSION**  
**OF THE**  
**West Florida Liberty**  
***Free Will Baptist***  
***Association***

**HELD WITH**  
**First Free Will Baptist Church**  
**OF BONIFAY, FLORIDA**  
**OCTOBER 16 AND 17, 1959**

**OFFICERS AND BOARDS**

Rev. W. E. George ..... Moderator  
Rev. Leon Owens ..... Vice-Moderator  
Rev. Wayne Hicks ..... Clerk-Treasurer

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Moderator, Clerk, Leroy Crawford 60, Buford Harris 60, Henry Hayes 61,  
David Cook 61, J. T. Harrell 61.

**ORDAINING COUNCIL**

Rev. Frank Willis 60, Rev. Henry Chestnut 61, Rev. W. E. George 62.

**MISSION BOARD**

Rev. D. W. Poole 60, Rev. Freeman Edwards 61, Rev. Harold Harrison 62.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### Quarterly Meetings

January 16, 1960 ..... Pleasant Hill  
April 16, 1960 ..... First Church, Panama City  
July 16, 1960 ..... St. John

### MINISTER AND DEACONS' CONFERENCE

November 15, 1959 ..... Poplar Head  
February 21, 1960 ..... Abigail  
May 15, 1960 ..... First Church, Bonifay  
August 21, 1960 ..... Chipley

### SUNDAY SCHOOL CONVENTION

May 29, 1960 ..... Poplar Head

### LEAGUE CONVENTION

March 26, 1960 ..... St. John

### WOMAN'S AUXILIARY CONVENTION

August 27, 1960 ..... Piney Grove

### MASTER'S MEN CONVENTION

November 13, 1959 ..... Chipley  
February 12, May 13, August 12, November 11, 1960

### LIBERTY MISSIONS CONFERENCE

January 18-24, 1960 ..... Places to be announced

### LIBERTY ASSOCIATION

October 14, 15, 1960 ..... Liberty Church

# PROCEEDINGS

Friday Morning October 16, 1959

The seventy-first annual session of the West Florida Liberty Free Will Baptist Association opened with congregational singing directed by Rev. D. W. Poole with Mrs. Frank Willis at the piano. Rev. Rufus Hyman led in the opening prayer.

The devotional thoughts were given by Rev. Owen, who read Matthew 5:13-16. The welcome address was made by the pastor of the host church Rev. D. W. Poole. The response was given by Rev. Wayne Hicks.

The Moderator then called for church letter to be handed in to the Clerk. All churches in the Association presented letters at first call.

The Program for this session was read, and a motion was made to receive the Program with the proper ammendments.

Rev. Freeman Edwards and Rev. H. D. Harrison read the church letter. After which a motion was made and carried to accept the letters and seat the delegates.

Visiting ministers and delegates were recognized and welcomed. Rev. C. A. Huckaby announced that Rev. and Mr. Walker, missionaries to Washington, D. C. would be in our section around the first of November.

After a short recess, the assembly was led in singing by Rev. Leon Owens, and prayer was offered by Rev. Madison Taylor. The morning message was delivered by Rev. Leo Curtis, who read from the Scripture Matthew 22:1-14. The Body was then dismissed for lunch with prayer by Rev. John Edwards.

## Friday Afternoon

The opening hymns for the afternoon were led by Rev. J. M. Rich, and prayer was offered by Rev. Henery Chestnut. The devotion was presented by Rev. Ralph Bell. He read Matthew 17:14-21.

The Moderator then called for reports of committees. Liberty Church gave its report on auxiliaries which was adopted. Abigail gave its report as the Temperance Committee. The report was adopted.

The Committee on Stewardship was given by Chipley Church, and the report was adopted. The Committee on Nominations made a report at this time. A motion was made to adopt the report. A motion was carried to return report to the Committee for completion.

A motion was made and carried to put all district auxiliary convention minutes in the minutes of the Association so that dates will not conflict.

The Credentials Committee made a reoprt, and a motion was carried to receive this as a partial report. The Treasurer made his annual report, which was accepted by a Move and Second. The Committee on Divine Service made a rport which was adopted.

## Friday Evening Mission Service

After congregational singing and prayer, a lively testimony service was led by Rev. A. B. Cook.

The report of the Mission Board was read and accepted by the attending body.



Another Hymn was sung by the congregation after which Rev. John Edwards of Dothan, Alabama brought an inspiring message on Prov. 23:10.

#### Saturday Morning October 17

The Song Service was led by Rev. D. W. Poole, and prayer was made by Brother N. E. Chestnut. Rev. Harrison was in charge of the devotion and read John 1:35-42. The Theme was "Thou Art and Thou Shalt Be".

The Moderator then renewed the call for church letter. Visitors who had come in for the day were welcomed.

The Finance Committee report was called for by the Moderator. A Motion was made to adopt the report. A motion was offered to amend the report to place the undersigned \$2 in the Cooperative Fund. Motion was carried. The Resolutions Committee gave a report which was adopted. The report of the Committee on Education was adopted. The Obituary report was given and adopted. Rev. Walter Eldridge was asked to lead in prayer as a memorial to those named in this report.

The Moderator appointed a Committee to make up the report to the Florida State Association from our District. Named: Rev. Hicks, Rev. Poole, and Rev. Owens.

Motion made that Bill George and Leon Owens work with the Personal Service Chairman of the District Woman's Auxiliary Convention to gather and carry goods to the Children's Home this year.

Delegates to State Association: Mrs. Bertie Baxter, Mrs. Oma Owen, Mrs. Mary Miller, Mrs. David Cook, and Mrs. Pitts.

SALEM: Mrs. George, Mr. Jack Pitts, Rev. Owens.

STATE LINE: Rev. and Mrs. Poole, Rev. Bobby Register.

UNION HILL: Rev. Edwards, Rev. Hicks, Rev. Harrison.

WEST FLORIDA: Mr. and Mrs. Pitts, Wayne Hicks.

NORTH FLORIDA: Rev. and Mrs. Poole, Mrs. Pitts.

SOUTHERN UNION: Rev. and Mrs. Poole.

The Moderator of the Florida State Association, Rev. D. F. Pelt, was given time to speak. The program for the State Association was read.

After a short recess The Singing was led by Rev. Bobby Register. Rev. Freeman Edwards brought the message based on Eph. 6:10-18.

#### Saturday Afternoon

The singing was conducted by Rev. J. M. Rich. Prayer was offered by Brother Aron Burch. The District Woman's Auxiliary Convention was in charge of the devotion. Mr. Oma Owen presented Mrs. Joyce Kirland and Mr. Harrauld Harrison, who sang a special; and Mrs. Freeman Edwards, who gave the devotional thoughts. She read John 21:15-17.

The Moderator called the Body to order for business. The final report of the credentials Committee was given and accepted.

A motion was made to have a split session in 1960. The motion was defeated by a count of 17 to 12.

The report of the Committee appointed to make up the report to the State Association was called for. The report was read and adopted. The report of the Nominating Committee was again called for, and it was adopted.

There was a motion which carried to give the host church a rising vote of thanks.

Adjournment.

## MINISTERS

Rev. Bill George, Rev. Freeman Edwards, Rev. Frank Willis, Rev. Harrauld Harrison, Rev. Owens, Rev. Henery Chestnut, Rev. J. M. Rich. VISITING MINISTERS: Rev. C. A. Huckaby, Rev. John Edwards, Rev. Rufus Hyman, Rev. L. R. Curtis, Rev. Madison Taylor, Rev. Clyde Owen, Rev. Alvin Howell, Rev. Walter Eldridge, Rev. Ralph Bell, Rev. Trim Finch Rev. Bobby Register, Rev. Danial Pelt, Rev. Arnold Woodlief.

## DEACONS

Earl Cook, Jack Pitts, Leslie Roberts, Ernest Owen, Pink Hinson Ray Garrett, N. E. Chesnut, John Cook, T. D. Owens, Caulie Owens Coy Owens, Aron Burch.

## DELEGATES

CHIPLEY: Mr. Roxie Pitts, Mrs. Melba Tanton, Mrs. Addie Cooper, Mrs. Joyce Kirland, Mrs. Marie Hayes, Mrs. H. D. Harrison.

PLEASANT HILL: Mrs. Doris Burch, Mrs. Annie Lee Howell, Mrs. Lou Yate, Mrs. Lucille Cook.

BEULAH. Mrs. Jane Hall.

PINEY GROVE: Mrs. Vea Peel, Mrs. Clara McAdams, Mr. Carl Owen, Mrs. Bertie Baxter.

ST. JOHN: Mrs. Cleo Cook.

POPLAR HEAD: Mrs. Effie Squires, Mrs. Elizabeth Cato.

ABIGAIL: Mrs. David Cook, Mrs. Marylene Willis,

DAMASCUS: Mrs. Lurene Johnson, Mrs. Matthews, Mrs. Christine Pippins.

BONIFAY: Nelvina Pitts, Vinnson Pitts.

LIBERTY: Mrs. J. H. Dykes, Mrs. Mary Miller, Mrs. O. Miller, Mrs. Annie Mae Cook.

## REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

### Resolutions Committee

We, the Resolutions Committee, submitted the following: Because of the extra time involved in the proper placing of funds received by the Mission Treasurer and the District Associational Treasurer, by it resolved that the office of Mission Treasury be abolished and all monies designated for missions be sent directly to the District Associational Treasury.

Piney Grove Church

### COMMITTEE ON AUXILIARIES

We, your Committee on Auxiliaries, report that a few of our churches have all the auxiliaries. We have 9 Leagues, 6 Woman's Auxiliaries, 3 Master's Men Chapter, 11 Sunday Schools, In order to be a complete New Testament church we should have all the auxiliaries that are recommended by our denomination. May we not forget the great Commission, "Go ye and teach all nations."

Liberty Church

### TEMPERANCE COMMITTEE

The word temperance means to be moderate in all things. The Christian temperance union was started in 1874 as a total abstinence movement against all alcholic beverages. This should be taught and the church stress the importance of the word temperance. I Corinthians

10:31, Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, at what so even ye do, do it all to the glory of God. Today people are living being surrounded with the darkness of an evil influence. Their hope rests largely upon the individuals who will submit to the leadership of the Spirit of God in practicing temperance. When our life glorifies God, we will be a light unto those who are in darkness. Thus leading them from the darkness of sin to victory in Christ our Lord.

Abigail Church

#### STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

We, your Committee on Stewardship, submit the following report: We believe that central basic truth of stewardship is given to us in I Cor. 6:19-20 and I Peter 1:19, "Ye are not your own, you are bought with a price, even the precious blood of Christ. We must recognize and acknowledge the fact that we and all claim to own rightly belongs to God by verture of His creation.

We especially feel the necessity and importance of a deeper and fuller understanding of the larger stewardship which consists of life (the inner life) and all the outward expression of that life. Some of the things envold would be stewardship of personality, talent, time calling influence and substance. We further advocate that there be a more delegent effort put forth in the local church in teaching the true meaning of stewardship. We prayerfully recommend that local Association- al talent be used to teach special study courses on stewardship.

ChipleY Church

#### COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

We, your Committee on Education, Submit the following recommendations:

1. That each church along with the other auxiliaries. Orgainze and maintain a Mater's Men Chapter.
2. That each church conduct a vacation Bible school.
3. That each church support Free Will Baptist College, Nashville, Tenn.
4. That each church encourage its youth to attend the youth camp.
5. That this Association help sponsor Sandra Dawson in her training for the mission field.
6. That every minister preach sermons that will educate our people about Bible stewardship.
7. That each church use the film offered by the Mission Boards.
8. That more individuals subscribe to the League Monthly.

#### FINANCE COMMITTEE

We, your Committee on Finance, submit the following report:

Money received for Coop. Program .....	\$461.73
Money received for Associational Purposes .....	48.00

Total .....	509.73
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Bonifay Church

#### TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance September 30, 1958 .....	\$ 204.14
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Receipts:

Children's Home .....	\$ 53.28
Cooperative Program .....	1852.37
Miami Mission .....	68.32



Missions .....	171.62
Foreign Missions .....	105.35
Associational Purposes .....	202.50
Free Will Baptist Bible College .....	20.00
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Total Receipts .....	2473.44

Total to be Accounted for .....\$2677.58

Disbursements:

Cooperative Program .....	\$1757.54
State Convention .....	20.00
Foreign Missions .....	105.35
Missions .....	171.62
Free Will Baptist Bible College .....	20.00
Miami Mission .....	68.32
Children' Home .....	53.28
Moderator .....	25.00
Clerk .....	25.00
Adams Printing Co. ....	100.00
Liberty Mission Board .....	195.29
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Total Disbursements .....	\$2541.40

Balance October 15, 1959 .....\$ 136.18

### OBITUARY COMMITTEE

We, your Committee on Obituary, submit the following report: As we come to the close of another associational year, we are made to rejoice because of the accomplishments that have been achieved. We are made to rejoice even more because of the many promises given to us by Christ After this life. However, we find sorrow in the midst of our rejoicing as we remember those of our number that God has called from our midst. We trust that our lost is God's gain.

Those departed are: From First Church of Bonifay are Brother Robert G. Howell and Brother Doddin. From Beulah, Brother Henry Elmore and Sister Mollie Register. From St. John, Brother Will Harris.

Poplar Head Church

### CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

We, your Credentials Committee, make the following report: We find 20 ministers, 36 delegates 21 deacons, 11 churches reporting. Total Membership of 770, Number gained 40 and number lost 31. Amount of offerings \$27,573.24. Value of church property \$109,000.00. Value of church parsonages \$20,000.00.

Leon Owens, Marie Hayes, and Oma Owen,

### NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

We, your Committee on Nominations, humbly present the following report: Committees assigned to churches.

Stewardship .....	Pleasant Hill
Auxiliaries .....	Panama City
Education .....	Bonifay
Temperance .....	Damascus
Finance .....	Abigail

Nominations ..... Piney Grove  
 Resolutions ..... Poplar Head  
 Obituaries ..... Beulah

We recommend a split-session be adopted by the Association and designate October 14, 1960 for Liberty and October 15, 1960 for Damascus.

St. John Church

(For rest of this report see Calendar of Events and front cover)

### MISSION BOARD REPORT

If you will compare the financial report with last year's report you will see that we had an increase of about \$200 in missions receipts for this year. We feel that every church should be giving a minimum of 10 per cent of their fund to get out the Gospel. Some of the churches increased their giving while others gave nothing. Even though this Association has been convening for eighteen years, we are still far behind in sending out the Light at home and in foreign lands.

You will notice that cash offerings for the Missions Conference were much lower than the previous year. The Mission Board added \$100 to the offerings which made a total of \$311.47 in cash offerings. Monthly pledges made during the mission Conference to be paid within a year amounted to \$938.00. Have you kept up your pledge? This was the fourth Missions Conference sponsored by the district Auxiliary and Mission Board and many felt that it was certainly one of the best.

In cooperation with the district auxiliary we have invited the Calverys who will be home from Japan soon and Mrs. Eunice Edwards to be our speakers for the next Mission Conference. The dates are January 19-26. Mark those dates on your calendar.

Following is a report of the activities of your Board of Missions as far as your secretary-treasurer, Pro tem was able to ascertain from records given to him by the regular secretary-treasurer upon his departure from the area. The Board of Missions sponsored teams consisting of members of the Board and Officers of the Liberty Association to personally visit the various associations of the state and promote the cause of Missions in each of those associations. The Board of Missions sponsored and paid expenses of Miss Linda Pippin to the National Free Will Baptist League Conference in Fort Smith Arkansas. The Board of Missions was Co-sponsor with the Liberty District Woman's Auxiliary in the annual missions Conference and auxiliary training course in the Liberty Association.

Balance on hand October 14, 1958 .....\$ 328.29

#### Receipts:

10% of Cooperative Funds .....	\$295.57
Missions Conference .....	211.47
Chipley Church .....	591.34
Piney Grove .....	223.69
Liberty Church .....	169.00
St. John Church .....	98.00
Poplar Head Church .....	79.05
Abigail Church .....	30.00
Pleasant Hill Church .....	8.00
Bonifay Church .....	5.75
Tallahassee Church .....	3.15
Personal Gifts .....	8.00



Refunds on expense money .....	97.31	
		<hr/> \$1820.33
Total .....		<hr/> \$2148.62
Disbursements:		
State Treasurer .....	\$1582.77	
Linda Pippin expenses .....	110.31	
District Assn. Visits expense .....	100.00	
Melitino Martinez .....	59.00	
Laura Belle Barnard .....	25.00	
Returned check .....	2.00	
		<hr/> \$1878.08
Balance on Hand .....	269.54	
Received from Rev. Paul Long .....	\$269.54	
Received from Piney Grove Church Sept. 28, 1959 .....	19.72	
Received from Liberty Church Sept. 29, 1959 .....	15.00	
Received from St. John Church Oct. 6, 1959 .....	10.00	
Received from Poplar Head Church Oct. 12, 1959 .....	15.28	
		<hr/> \$329.54
Balance on hand Oct. 16, 1959 .....		\$329.54

D. W. Poole, Treasurer pro tem.

## Libetry District Auxiliary Convention

First Free Will Baptist Church of Bonifay, August 22, 1959

Theme for convention "Thy Word Hath Quickened Me"

Thy word hath quickened me in youth work — Mrs. Azeal Justice

Thy word hath quickened me in study — Mrs. Etha Mae Owen

Thy word hath quickened me in stewardship — Mrs. Oma Owen

Thy word hath quickened me in missions — Mrs. Corene George

Report of WNAC and morning Message by Mrs. Mildred Pelt.

Committees appointed were:

Finance — Vera Owens, Louise Hicks, Frances Owens

Credentials — Corene George, Azeal Justice, Joyce Kirkland, Louis Garrett.

Plan of Work — Bertie Lee Hartley, Estelle Crawford, Oma Owen

Business Session: Opened by reading minutes of last meeting, Minutes accepted as read.

Reports:

Credentials Committee — 6 Ministers, 1 state Officer, 9 Dist. officers, 6 local officers, 14 delegates.

Finance Committee — Report accepted by move and second.

Secretary report given.

Youth Auxiliary Chairman — Mrs. Azeal Justice.

Personal Service — Mrs. Charlotte Long

Study Course — Mrs. Ibra Usery

Week at Camp — Mrs. Corene George

Plan of Work Committee report:

1. That we sponsor a study course for at least one day to study report making.

2. All auxiliaries assist the pastor in conducting a daily vacation Bible School.

3. Screen the back porch at camp as a project for the year

4. That we co-sponsor a mission conference together with the Mission board. The workers to be chosen by a committee

Committee — Melba Tanton and Corene George and Mission Board.  
Report accepted by move and second.

A food committee for State Association was appointed. Azeal Justice, Corene George, Oma Owen.

Nomination Committee Report:

President — Mrs. Corene George.

Vice President — Mrs. Frances Owens.

Recording Secretary — Mrs. Oma Owen.

Assistant Recording Secretary — Mrs. D. W. Poole.

Corresponding Secretary — Mrs. Estelle Crawford.

Treasurer — Mrs. Etha Mae Owen.

Field Secretary — Mrs. Curtis Bolden.

Youth Chairman — Mrs. Azeal Justice.

Study Course Chairman — Mrs. Malba Tanton.

Stewardship Prayer Chairman — Mrs. Lois Garrett.

Personal Service Chairman — Mrs. Bertie Baxter.

The next session of the convention will meet with Piney Grove Church.

Report accepted by move and second.

Adjourned with prayer, to meet again on the 27th day of August, 1960, at Piney Grove Free Will Baptist Church, Chipley, Florida.

Recording Secretary — Mrs. Oma Owen.

# CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I. Name. This Association shall be known as the WEST FLORIDA LIBERTY FREE WILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

ARTICLE II. Composition. This Association shall be composed of such regularly organized and well-disciplined Free Will Baptist Churches conveniently located, as may embody themselves under this constitution.

ARTICLE III. Representation. The Conference of this Association shall consist of delegates from the several Churches of which it is composed, each Church being entitled to two (2) delegates for the first twenty-five (25) members or fraction thereof, and one (1) delegate for each subsequent twenty-five (25) members or fraction thereof.

Section 2. All ordained ministers and deacons who are in good standing with the Association shall be standing delegates.

ARTICLE IV. Officers, Boards and Committees. The officers of this Association shall be a Clerk-Treasurer, Moderator, and Vice-Moderator, who shall be chosen at every session of the Association, with assistants as may be deemed necessary.

Section 2. The Standing Committees of this Association shall be: Executive, Finance, Obituary, Temperance, Stewardship, Auxiliaries, Resolutions, and Nominations. Other committees shall be appointed as the need may arise. The Executive Committee shall be composed of seven members of which the Moderator of the Association who shall be Chairman of the Committee, and Clerk shall be standing members. The other five members shall be elected for two year terms as follows: two one year and three the next year.

Section 3. The Board of Missions consisting of three (3) members shall be elected as follows: one member shall be elected each year.

ARTICLE V. Membership. Any well-organized and well-regulated Free Will Baptist Church which conforms to the practices, and adopts the doctrines of the Free Will Baptist denominations, as published in the treatise of their faith, and in the Minutes of the National Association, and is in favor of all the benevolent enterprises of the denomination, may at any time, on application, by vote of this body, become a member thereof.

Section 2. Churches from other Associations wishing to become members of this Association must present a letter of recommendation from the Association of which they were previously a member.

ARTICLE VI. Meetings. The sessions of this Association shall be held on Friday and Saturday before the third Sunday in October at which time it shall be the duty of the churches of which this Association is composed to represent themselves by letter and delegates, and report their standing, prospects, and statistics. At this time the Association shall act upon such questions and topics as may be referred to it by its respective Quarterly Meeting or Churches, and transact such other business not repugnant to this Constitution, nor to the practices of the denomination, as in its judgement may promote the cause of Christ and the interest of the Churches within the limits of this Association.

Section 2. This Association shall sponsor a Quarterly Meeting to be held on Saturday before the first-third Sunday in each Quarter whose representation shall be the same as that of the Association.

ARTICLE VII. Finances. The general expense of the Association shall be provided by each Church according to its ability. The Moderator



and Clerk shall receive twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) each per year, and the remainder of the money shall be used for Minutes, postage and any other expense that may occur.

Section 2. Each Church shall send at least 10% of its income to the Treasurer of the Quarterly Meetings and the Association for the Different phases of the denominational work.

ARTICLE VIII. Discipline. This Association shall have power to discipline the Churches of which it is composed, and to exclude them for disorderly walk, if the labor proves unsuccessful, but in no case to reverse their decisions, nor to interfere with any of their internal regulations.

ARTICLE IX. By-Laws. This Association shall have power to adopt any regulation or by-laws, not inconsistent with this Constitution, which may be deemed essential to the further regulations of its sessions.

ARTICLE X. Amendments. This Constitution may be altered or amended by a vote of the Association at any regular session, notice of such intended alteration having been given in writing, and recorded at the next previous session.

## ASSOCIATION DECORUM

1. This Association shall be called to order by the Moderator elected at the last session if present. If absent, by the Vice-Moderator, or someone elected by the body.

2. The Moderator shall see that order is preserved and submit all actions to the body. He shall have the same right of speech as any other member, but appoint some other brother as chairman while speaking. He shall not have the right to vote unless it be in the case of a tie, then he may cast the deciding vote.

3. The Vice-Moderator shall assume the duties, rights and privileges of the Moderator in his absence.

4. The delegates shall be enrolled by the clerk as they are seated in the body. The roll shall be called each morning, and all not answering to their names marked absent.

5. No delegate or minister shall be allowed to absent himself from the body during any session without permission from the Moderator.

6. All business shall be brought before the body by move and second and shall be disposed of according to ROBERTS' RULES OF ORDER. No person shall be allowed to speak more than three times on the same subject, and not more than ten minutes each time without a move and second from the body.

7. Only one person shall be allowed to speak at a time and he must rise to his feet and address the Moderator. No person shall be disturbed while speaking so long as he keeps to the point in debate, except by the Moderator, and then only to call him to order. The speaker must not use abusive language or personal reflections upon anyone.

8. Each minister shall make a report of how many churches he is serving, if any, and what each church has paid him for his services.

9. No minister shall be considered in good standing that officiates in the rites of matrimony where either party has been divorced except it be for fornication.

10. No minister or deacon shall be considered in good standing with this body that has more than one living wife, drinks intoxicating beverages or fails to pay or make proper satisfaction of his just and honest debts.

11. All ministers serving churches shall preach at least one sermon a year on doctrine and rules of holy living.

12. Any minister belonging to this body who has an appointment or is serving churches who fails to meet the appointed hours, shall be due acknowledgements to the congregation or church.

13. No minister shall preach in our churches that cannot bring a clear record from his home church.

14. Any minister who will voluntarily step aside shall immediately turn his credentials over to the Executive Committee of the Association.

15. No church shall be recognized in this body who does not commune and wash feet at least twice a year and who does not have conference quarterly. The pastor's salary, number of conferences and the number of communion and feet washing services shall be contained in the associational letter.

16. No church shall be considered in this body that holds fellowship with a minister or deacon that does not conform to Article 10 of this Decorum.

## CHURCH DECORUM

1. The church may choose a pastor annually at the last conference in associational year; or if they prefer, it may choose a pastor for an indefinite length of time to continue from year to year, as long as they may deem it proper to keep up the connection.

2. When it becomes necessary, a pastor may be chosen at any given time, but if the choice be made at a special conference, the time for the conference must be appointed by the church in conference at least thirty (30) days in advance.

3. When a pastor wishes to resign a church he shall give the church a sixty (60) day notice; or when the church wishes to call a pastor it shall give the present pastor a sixty (60) day notice.

4. The pastor shall be Moderator of the church, but when the Moderator is absent or does not sit, a suitable brother shall be appointed in his place.

5. There shall be two or more deacons in the church whose duty it shall be to superintend the collection and distribution of all contributions, and to assist the pastor in administration of the Lord's Supper and washing the Saints' Feet.

6. The deacons shall take notice of such members as refuse or neglect to partake of the Lord's Supper and endeavor to ascertain the cause that the same may be laid before the church in conference if necessary.

7. Some suitable member shall be appointed clerk and it shall be his duty to do all the recording and writing pertaining to the business of the church and to preserve a file of the Minutes of the Association.

8. When a clerk is appointed all of the books, Minutes, etc., belonging to the clerk shall be delivered to him by his predecessor.

9. Some suitable member shall be elected treasurer whose duty shall be to distribute all funds as directed by the church.

10. It shall be the rule of the church to attend to the administration of the Lord's Supper and washing of the Saints' Feet as often as the church sees fit. Members not in good standing should not commune, but the administration should not be deferred on account of any orderly matter of dealing.

11. Conferences shall be opened and conducted as follows (1) Prayer



unless divine service has just been concluded, and generally then, (2) Invite visiting brethren to seats, (3) Open the door for reception of members, (4) Call for absentees, (5) Call for acknowledgement, (6) for reference of deferred business, (7) for matters of dealing which are in order to come before the church, and (8) for miscellaneous business.

12. It shall be the duty of every church member, male or female, to attend each conference meeting, if they can, for on that day the pastor is expected to instruct the church in a certain manner by giving plain and pointed lessons on doctrine, discipline, and rules of holy living.

13. Any male member who shall fail to attend three successive conferences and any member who may be generally remiss in attending meetings of the church shall be cited to appear in conference and answer for his conduct; but the church may exempt members from this if necessary.

14. When the Moderator calls for absentees the clerk shall inform the church what male members have been absent from three successive conferences, and the Moderator shall appoint some brethren to cite each of them to the next conference.

15. A vote shall not be taken upon a question without a move and second and on all important questions the vote shall be taken by rising to the feet.

16. Visiting brethren called in as help from sister churches shall be allowed to speak and make motions or seconds, but not allowed to vote.

17. No main motion shall be made while a move and second is before the conference.

18. It shall be considered disorderly for any member to absent himself from conference when an important question is to be decided; but a member, upon request, may be exempted by the church from voting on either side in peculiar cases.

19. No member shall leave the house during conferences without a sufficient cause, nor engage in conversation or whispering without being subject to be called to order by the Moderator.

20. All discussions in conference must be conducted with calmness and good feeling. Those who speak must rise to their feet, and keep to the point in debate.

21. No one shall speak more than three times on the same subject without permission from the Moderator, nor shall the remarks of anyone be unreasonably long.

22. When the Moderator speaks he must nominate some brother as Moderator to act in his stead.

23. No one shall be interrupted while speaking unless it be necessary to call him to order.

24. No member shall be expelled unless he has been cited verbally or in writing to attend his trial provided his residence be known to the church.

25. Expelled members may be restored to fellowship on their petition if their walk since expulsion has convinced the church that they have sincerely repented for their former evil.

26. When a witness, not a member of the church, is introduced he shall not be examined until the question has been put to the church: "Will you hear the testimony of the witness?"

27. The evidence in every case of dealing and acknowledgement shall be recorded in the church.

28. Members dismissed from the church by letter who become dis-



orderly or continue to hold their letter without good reason shall be cited to the conference to answer for their conduct.

29. Any ordinary member of the Baptist Church who does not hold this church in fellowship may be received into the church without a letter when it is made apparent that his Christian character is irreproachable and that he has applied for a letter and could not obtain it because he desires to join this or some sister church. All other persons must join by letter, baptism, statement, or restoration.

## ARTICLES OF FAITH

1. **THE BIBLE.** The Scripture of the Old and New Testaments were given by inspiration of God, and are our infallible rule of faith and practice.

2. **GOD.** There is one living and true God, revealed in nature as the Creator, Preserver, and Righteous Governor of the universe; and in the Scriptures as Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, yet as one God, infinitely wise and good, whom all intelligent creatures are supremely to love, adore, and obey.

3. **CHRIST.** Christ is God manifest in the flesh; in His divine nature truly God, in His human nature truly man. The Mediator between God and man, once crucified, He is now risen and glorified, and is our ever present Saviour and Lord.

4. **THE HOLY SPIRIT.** The Scriptures assign to the Holy Spirit all the attributes of God.

5. **THE GOVERNMENT OF GOD.** God exercises a wise and benevolent providence over all beings and all things by maintaining the constitution and laws of nature. He also performs special acts, not otherwise provided for, as the highest welfare of men requires.

6. **THE SINFULNESS OF MAN.** Man was created innocent, but by disobedience fell into a state of sin and condemnation. His posterity therefore, inherit a fallen nature of such tendencies that all who come to years of accountability sin, and become guilty before God.

7. **THE WORK OF CHRIST.** The Son of God by His incarnation, life, sufferings, death and restoration effected for all a redemption from sin that is full and free and is the ground of salvation by faith.

8. **THE TERMS OF SALVATION.** The conditions of salvation are:  
1. Repentance or sincere sorrow for sin and hearty reunciation of it.  
2. Faith or the unreserved committal of one's self to Christ as Savior and Lord with purpose to love and obey Him in all things. In the exercise of saving faith the soul is renewed by the Holy Spirit, freed from the dominion of sin and becomes a child of God.  
3. Continuance in faith and obedience until death.

9. **ELECTION.** God determined from the beginning to save all who should comply with the conditions of salvation. Hence by faith in Christ men become His elect.

10. **FREEDOM OF THE WILL.** The human will is free and self-controlled, having power to yield to the influence of the truth and the Spirit, or to resist them and perish.

11. **SALVATION FREE.** God desires the salvation of all, the Gospel invites all, the Holy Spirit strives with all and whosoever will may come and take of the water of life freely.

12. **PERSERVATION.** All believers in Christ, who through grace persevere in holiness to the end of life, have promise of eternal salvation.

13. GOSPEL ORDINANCES. Baptism, or the immersion of believers in water, and the Lord's Supper, are ordinances to be perpetuated under the Gospel; Feet Washing, an ordinance teaching humility, of universal obligation, and to be ministered to all true believers.

14. TITHING. God commanded tithes and offerings in the old Testament; Jesus Christ endorsed it in the Gospel (Matt. 23:23), and the Apostle Paul said, "Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store as God hath prospered him." — (1 Cor. 16:2).

15. THE CHRISTIAN SABBATH. The divine law requires that one day in seven be set apart from secular employment and amusements, for rest, worship, holy work and activities, and for personal communion with God.

16. RESURRECTION, JUDGEMENT, AND FINAL RETRIBUTION. The Scriptures teach the resurrection of all men at the last day. They that have done good will come forth to the resurrection of life, and they that have done evil unto the resurrection of damnation; then the wicked will "go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

STATISTICAL TABLE

CHURCHES	PASTOR	CLERK	Rec. by Baptism	Otherwise	Dismissed by Letter	Died	Total Membership	Paid Pastor	Paid Evangelist	Value of Church Property	Cooperative Program	Total Earmarked Money	Meeting Days
Abigail .....	Rev. J. M. Rich Chipley, Fla.	Mrs. Archie Cook Vernon, Fla.					26	464.30	75.00	3,000	66.12	45.00	2 & 4
Beulah .....	Rev. A. B. Cook Bonifay, Fla.	Mrs. Janie Hall Graceville, Fla.			2	2	16	99.09	55.15	500			1 & 3
Bonifay .....	Rev. D. W. Poole Bonifay, Fla.	Annie Bowlin Bonifay, Fla.	2	4	3	2	69	1,135.35	140.00	16,200	278.81	94.82	F.T.
Chipley .....	Rev. H. D. Harrison Chipley, Fla.	Joyce Kirkland Chipley, Fla.	6	2			135	3,750.00	200.00	35,000	284.54	636.96	F.T.
Damascus .....	Rev. J. C. Watson Marianna, Fla.	F. Pippin Freeport, Fla.		4			38	230.00	165.30	2,750			1 & 3
Liberty .....	Rev. W. E. George Bonifay, Fla.	J. H. Milton Bonifay, Fla.	4	1			46	536.36	104.61	3,000	110.03	165.00	1 & 3
Panama City .....	Rev. Wayne Hicks Panama City, Fla.	Ruth Sexton Panama City, Fla.	2	9	1		87	3,630.00	200.00	17,000	579.11	360.01	F.T.
Piney Grove .....	Rev. Freeman Edwards Chipley, Fla.	Bernard Owens Chipley, Fla.	3		5		148	2,600.00	200.00	10,000	339.74	270.63	F.T.
Pleasant Hill .....	Rev. Bobby Register Graceville, Fla.	Mrs. Lucille Cook Bonifay, Fla.	5				63	421.71	180.07	21,860	6.52	35.41	F.T.
Poplar Head .....	Rev. Leon Owens Vernon, Fla.	A. F. Squires Bonifay, Fla.	3				56	2,040.00	175.00	10,000	83.84	288.97	F.T.
St. John .....	Rev. W. Eldredge Cottondale, Fla.	N. E. Chestnut Bonifay, Fla.	2	1	1	1	86	904.02	190.00	4,000		178.25	F.T.
			27	21	12	5	770	15,810.83	1,685.13	123,310	1,784.71	2,075.05	



# MINISTER'S ANNUAL REPORT

MINISTERS	Churches Pastored	Sermons Preached	Number Revivals	Number Funerals	Number Marriages	Members received	By Baptism	Miles Traveled	Money Received	
REV. FREEMAN EDWARDS	1	18							250.00	
REV. BILL GEORGE	2	282		9	3	20		10,855	1,941.51	
REV. FRANK WILLIS	1	70	1	1	3	14		18,859	741.74	
REV. H. D. HARRISON	1	54	1	3	1	10	10	20,000	2,800.00	
REV. WAYNE HICKS	1	181	1	4	3	11	2	25,000	3,930.80	

## CHURCH COVENANT

Having given ourselves to God, by faith in Jesus Christ, and adopted the Word of God as our rule of faith and practice, we now give ourselves to one another by the will of God in this solemn covenant.

We promise by His Grace to love and obey Him in all things to avoid all appearance of evil, to abstain from all sinful amusements and unholy conformity to the world, from all sanction of the use and sale of intoxicating beverages, and to provide things honest in the sight of all men.

We agree faithfully to discharge our obligations in reference to study of the Scriptures, secret prayer, family devotions, and social worship and by self-denial, faith, and good works endeavor to grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

We will not forsake the assembling of ourselves together for church conferences, public worship, and the observance of the ordinances of the Gospel, nor fail to pay according to our ability for the support of the church, of its poor, and all its benevolent work.

We agree to accept Christian admonition and reproof with meekness, and to watch over one another in love, endeavoring to "keep the unity of the Spirit in the bonds of peace," to be careful of one another's happiness and reputation, and seek to strengthen the weak, encourage the afflicted, admonish the erring and as far as we are able, to promote the success of the church and of the Gospel.

We will everywhere hold Christian principles sacred and Christian obligations and enterprises supreme; counting it our chief business in life to extend the influence of Christ in society; constantly praying and toiling that the Kingdom of God may come, and His will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

To this end we agree to labor for the promotion of educational and denominational enterprises, the support of Missions, the success of Sunday Schools, and evangelistic efforts for the salvation of the World. And may the God of peace sanctify us wholly, and preserve us blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

