



**West
Florida
Liberty
Association**

OF

**Free Will Baptist
1989
Minutes**

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WEST FLORIDA LIBERTY ASSOCIATION

Officers and Boards

1989

OFFICERS

Moderator-----Rev. Ernest Laxton

Assistant Moderator-----Rev. Randy Hill

Clerk/Treasurer-----Loreida Austin

Assistant Clerk/Treasurer-----Kathy Burch

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Mr. Earl Cook - 1990

Rev. Bob Wiant - 1992

Mr. Aron Burch - 1991

Rev. Allan Austin - 1993

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Mr. Ross Pippin - 1990

Mr. Thomas Porter - 1991

Mr. Archer Cook - 1992

YOUTH CO-DIRECTORS

Mrs. Donna Clark - 1990

Mrs. Lunell Duncan - 1991

CAMP BOARD

Mr. Lavon Crawford - 1990

Mr. Aron Burch - 1991

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Stewardship Committee: Frank Willis, Gene Please, Aubry George

Education Committee: Sammy Hayes, Allan Austin, Wesley Owen

Nominating Committee: Ernest Owen, Tommy DuBose, Randy Hill

Resolutions Committee: Jerrine Burch, Katie Owen, Mrytle Miller

Obituary Committee: Etha Mae Owen, Kathy Burch, Sharon Cooper

Children's Home Representative: Ernest Laxton

Finance Committee: Loreida Austin, Judy Laxton, Houston Toole

STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Ernest Owen

STATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Sammy Hayes, Allan Austin, Wesley Owen

MISSION BOARD

Wesley Owen, Houston Toole, James Stovall

ORDAINING COUNCIL

Ernest Laxton, Randy Hill, Thomas Porter

638-1092

638-0674

1989 - 1990

CHURCH

Abigail FWB Church
Vernon, Florida

First FWB Church of Chipley
609 South Blvd. West
Chipley, FL 32428
638 - 0598

First FWB Church of Panama City
305 Airport Drive
Panama City, FL 32405
785 - 0302

Liberty FWB Church
Rt. 1 Box 519
Caryville, FL 32427

Piney Grove FWB Church
Rt. 5, Box 388
Chipley, FL 32428

Pleasant Hill FWB Church
Rt. 1, Box 819
Bonifay, FL 32425

St. Johns FWB Church
Rt. 1
Bonifay, FL 32425

PASTOR

none

Rev. Robert N. Wiant
705 West Forrest Ave.
Chipley, FL 32428
638 - 0046

Tommy DuBose
5027 East 73 St.
Panama City, FL 32404
769 - 6073

none

Rev. Randy Hill
Rt. 5, Box 388
Chipley, FL 32428

Rev. Ernest Laxton
Rt. 1, Box 819
Bonifay, FL 32425

Rev. Allan M. Austin
Rt. 1, Box 743
Bonifay, FL 32425

OTHERS

Rev. Frank Willis
Star Rt. Box A-1
Vernon, FL 32462
535 - 2894

Rev. James C. Stovall
600 North 4 St.
Chipley, FL 32428
638 - 8527

CLERKSAbigail FWB Church

Ouida Cook
Star Rt. Box 11
Vernon, FL 32462
535 - 2053

First FWB Church of Chipley

Elsie Gainey
107 Wells Ave.
Chipley, FL 32428
638 - 1643

First FWB Church of Panama City

Lydia Lynn
802-B Magnolia Ave.
Panama City, FL 32401
763 - 7337

Liberty FWB Church

Myrtle Miller
Rt. 1
Caryville, FL 32427
535-2408

Piney Grove FWB Church

Myra D. Henderson
Rt. 5, Box 382
Chipley, FL 32428
638 - 1193

Pleasant Hill FWB Church

Geraldine Burch
Rt. 1, Box 775
Bonifay, FL 32425
535 - 4062

St. Johns FWB Church

Sharon Cooper
Rt. 1, Box 183
Bonifay, FL 32425
547 - 3104

DEACONS

none

Ernest Owen
Rt. 5, Box 302
Chipley, FL 32425
638 - 1472

Dick Justice
2704 Drummond Ave.
Panama City, FL 32405
785 - 0985

Ross Pippin
4931 Hwy. 389
Lynn Haven, FL 32444
265 -5552

Leslie Miller
Rt. 1
Caryville, FL 32427
535-2343

Houston Toole
Rt. 5, Box 446
Chipley, FL 32428
638 - 0674

Lavon Crawford
Rt. 1
Bonifay, FL 32425
638 - 0015

Aron Burch
Rt. 1, Box 742
Bonifay, FL 32425
535 - 2135

Sammy Hayes
Rt. 1
Bonifay, FL 32425
535 - 4259

Jack Hewett
Rt. 1
Bonifay, FL 32425
547 - 4943

Thomas Porter
Rt. 1 Box 629
Blountstown, FL 32424
674 - 4228

Howard McAdams
1902 Calhoun Ave.
Panama City, FL 32405
763 - 7056

Ralph Toole
Rt. 5, Box 305
Chipley, FL 32428
638 - 1119

L.D. Helms
Rt. 1
Bonifay, FL 32425
535 - 2078

Ray Gerrett
Rt. 1
Bonifay, FL 32425
547 - 3809

FIRST QUARTERLY MEETING

January 14, 1989

Pleasant Hill Free Will Baptist Church

The meeting was opened with the song At Calvary and prayer given by Bro. Earl Cook. The congregation also sang the hymn Sunlight. Welcome was given by Thomas Porter.

It was motioned, seconded, and carried to seat the delegates.

Devotion was given by Thomas Porter from I Cor. 14:40 on how we are to conduct ourselves as Christians, orderly and without discourse. Then the hymn Footsteps of Jesus was sung by the congregation.

Business Meeting: Moderator stated "To be accepted into the association as a pastor, the Ordaining Council must approve him and a letter of recommendation from his previous association is needed."

The Ordaining Council moved to accept Rev. James Stovall as a member of our association as a minister in good standing. Letter of recommendation has already been received by the association clerk. The motion was seconded and carried. The Ordaining Council met with Rev. Randy Hill and Rev. Tommy DuBose at break to examine them for acceptance.

Bro. Cook, Pippin, and Owen were assigned to collect historical material on our 100th year anniversary of the Liberty Association.

Dismissed for recess break at 10:45---Reconvened at 11:00.

The Ordaining Council examined Bro. Hill and Bro. DuBose and it was motioned by Bro. Laxton to receive them into our association pending their letters of recommendation.

Bro. Aron Burch and Bro. Lavon Crawford gave the camp report: "We need to encourage our youth to attend." There will be a camp board meeting ASAP with pastors being invited to share ideas of the camps progress. A motion was made seconded and carried for the camp board to meet and pick a director of the pastors and other associations involved.

The morning message was brought by Bro. Randy Hill.

Dismissed for lunch with prayer.

Offering received --- \$48.00

Dues received --- \$216.50.

Next meeting at Chipley Church on April 8, 1989. Bro. James Stovall was asked to bring the message.

SECOND QUARTERERLY MEETING

April 8, 1989

First Free Will Baptist Church of Chipley

The meeting opened by singing the hymn Everybody Will Be Happy. Prayer was given by Bro. Frank Willis.

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to seat the delegates.

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to accept the minutes of the previous meeting.

Two congregation song were sung: Majesty and An Old Account Was Settled Long Ago. Prayer was given by Bro. DuBose.

An introduction of Wiant's, new pastor of the First Church of Chipley, was given by Bro. Porter.

A letter of good standing was received from Bro. Mayo's association.

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to pay for trophies and the entrance fees for youth competition in district and for entrance fees for state competition.

Information was given about plans for a youth retreat to be held at Camp Mt. Pleasant.

Recessed for fifteen minutes.

Reconvened with singing and prayer.

Special music was provided by Randy and Kim Hill of Piney Grove.

The morning message was brought by Bro. Bob Wiant from II Timothy 2:15

Dismissed for lunch with prayer

Offering received --- \$57.00

Dues received --- \$225.00

Next meeting at St. John's Free Will Baptist Church on July 8, 1989.

Bro. Tommy DuBose was Asked to bring the message.

THIRD QUARTERLY MEETING

July 8, 1989

St. John's Free Will Baptist Church

The meeting was opened with the song Redeemed led by Bro. Randy Hill.

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to seat the delegates.

The clerk informed the body that Bro. Randy Hill's and Bro. Tommy DuBose's letters of good standing from there previous associations had arrived. Bro. Wiant's letter was to arrive later.

Special prayer was made for the day's services and for those in need.

Two congregational song were sung: I am Resolved and Amazing Grace.

Bro. Laxton gave a report on Camp Mt. Pleasant

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to accept Mrs. Pat Collert's resignation.

Information on Camp Meeting --- \$366.00 owed on electricity bill from last year. Bro. Ernest Owens gave the history of Camp Meeting.

Bro. Aron Burch was asked to find documents of ownership concerning the camp and camp grounds.

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to have camp meeting with the understanding that there will be work done to restructure the system within the next year.

Recessed for few minute break --- reconvened with the hymn Footsteps of Jesus.

A presentation on Home Missions was given by Bro. Elmer Turnbough --- "The need to give and pray for Home and Foreign Missions."

Congregational song --- Thank You Lord

The Morning message was brought by Bro. Tommy DuBose from Psalm 51:12 on renewing the joy of salvation.

Disssmised for lunch with prayer.

Offering receiced --- \$61.00

Dues received --- \$214.00

Next meeting to be held at Piney Grove Oct. 14, 1989. Bro. Frank Willis was asked to bring the message.

Annual Meeting
Oct. 14, 1989
Piney Grove Free Will
Baptist Church

The meeting was opened with prayer and with the song "The Lily of the Valley."
Motioned, Seconded, and Carried to seat delegates.

Reports of Committees and Boards:

Executive Committee- none

Board of Trustees- none

Youth Co-Directors- none

Camp Board- reported by Bro. Aron Burch (The Camp Board will meet Sat. Oct. 21 1989 at the camp.)

Mission Board- none

Ordaining Council- none

State Executive Committee- none

Stewardship Committee- M., S., & C. to accept (report in minutes)

Education Committee- M., S., & C. to accept (report in minutes)

Resolutions Committee- M., S., & C. to accept (report in minutes)

Obituary Committee- M., S., & C. (to accept (report in minutes)

Nominating Committee-(report in minutes) Each position and committee was voted on separately

It was stated that the moderator is automatically on the executive committee and the other committees.

The Historical Committee report was given by Mrs. Etha Mae Owen, a Motion was made Seconded and Carried to accept it as given and for the clerk to keep the report for our records.

A M., S., & C. to have a 5 minute break and return for preaching with a short business session after lunch.

The morning message was given by Bro. Frank Willis.

The blessing was said and lunch was served by the host church.

Business session was reconvened.

A Motion was Made Seconded and Carried to accept the committee assignments.

* assignments are on the Officers and Boards page

Information: Camp Meeting was a great success with \$216.74 left in the account.

A M., S., and C. to send a letter of recommendation to the Georgia Union of Free Will Baptist for Bro. Dilmos Johnson.

A M., S., and C. to accept Etha Mae Owen, Oma Owen, and Becky Wiant as delegates to the State Assoc. meeting .

A M., S., & C. to accept finance report:

259.20 Offering & money sent with letters

579.75 in account 10/14/89

2118.37 In Student Loan Account

A M., S., & C. to adjourn with next meeting being held at First Free Will Baptist Church of Chipley on January 13, 1990. Bro. Allan Austin will be speaking.

We the Obituary Committee, submit the following report:

Abigail-----	Thelma Jones	Pleasant Hill-----	none
	Theron Cook	St. Johns-----	Herbert Locke
Chiple-----	Cauley Owens		
Liberty-----	Ned Brock		
	Annie Mae Cook		
	Don Rexford		
	Carson MC Elvin		
Panama City-----	none		
Piney Grove-----	I.T. Baxter		
	Coy Owens		

Respectfully submitted: Kathy Burch and Katie Owen

We, your Committee on Resolutions submit the following:

We strongly urge our Pastors and church members to exhibit a greater loyalty and dedication, first to God and second to our church and denomination.

We urge our Pastors and church members to speak out and vote when possible against the evils of our day, such as drugs, alcoholic drinks, abortion, and filthy T.V. shows.

We urge each pastor to try to have more people from our churches attending our Association.

Respectfully submitted: Etha Mae Owen, Thomas Porter, and Marie George

We the stewardship committee submit the following:

In accordance with I Cor. 4: 1-2 we stewards of Christ are accountable as to the spread of the gospel, and our faithfulness to God and one another. The scriptures state that faithfulness is required. Furthermore it is virtually impossible to know the will of God for our lives if we are not faithful to God and his word. Let us continue to encourage faithfulness in all church activities.

Respectfully submitted: Ernest Laxton, James Mitchum, and Glenda Redmon

We the Education Committee do hereby recommend to the churches of this association the following: Since there is a lack of knowledge in our Free Will Baptist churches from the very young through the older adult, concerning what Free Will Baptist believe concerning the new birth, Christian walk of life, as to what God requires and respects from his children, as well as basic doctrines.

That the 13 New Convert lessons, put out by the Nat. Home Missions Dept. or (the equivalent) be made available to its members, and be taught in our churches as a priority in teaching materials, as one of the means of stemming the tide of the exit from our churches partly due to lack of knowledge, also that we teach and practice personal soul winning.

Respectfully submitted: Frank Willis and James C. Stovall

Treasurer's Report

Balance as of 10/88	\$ 270.89
Deposits	1150.29
Interest	10.82
Expenses	<u>862.77</u>
Balance as of 10/89	569.23

Expenses

Clerk fee	\$100.00
Moderator fee	25.00
State Assoc. Dues	105.00
State Youth Comp. Fee	82.50
State Youth Comp. Awards	173.36
Youth Comp. Materials	73.59
Student Loan Fund	240.00
Misc.	63.32
	<u>\$862.77</u>

Student Loan Fund

Balance as of 10/88	\$3262.95
Withdrawal for Student Loan	(1500.00)
Deposit from Student Payments	250.00
Deposits from Association	240.00
Interest	135.52
Balance as of 10/89	<u>\$2388.47</u>

CALENDER OF EVENTS FOR 1990

January 13, 1990-----Chipley

July 14, 1990-----Pleasant Hill

April 14, 1990-----Panama City

October 13, 1990-----Piney Grove

Billy Messer

3 13 21
3 8 21

STATISTICAL REPORTS

	Abigail	Chipley	1st P.C.	Liberty
Number Baptized	0	0	3	0
Number added	0	0	12	1
Number lost	3	18	7	4
Resident Members	44	76	33	7
Total Membership	44	76	33	7
SS Enrollment	16	71	50	7
CTS Enrollment	0	0	0	0
WA Enrollment	0	12	0	0
MM Enrollment	0	0	0	0
Value of Church Property	55,000.00	490,400.00	116,000.00	30,000.00

	Piney Grove	Pleasant Hill	St. Johns
Number Baptized	1	0	2
Number added	3	1	4
Number Lost	4	1	3
Resident Members	95	29	25
Total Membership	95	29	25
SS Enrollment	120	33	30
CTS Enrollment	20	0	0
WA Enrollment	12	0	0
MM Enrollment	12	0	0
Value of Church Property	143,000.00	100,000.00	75,000.00

CONSTITUTION OF THE WEST FLORIDA LIBERTY ASSOCIATION
OF
FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCHES

Preamble. In order to encourage and inspire the churches of this association to engage in a more definite plan of work, to labor together in unity, and to coordinate their efforts for a greater program to Christ and His Kingdom. We do hereby adopt this Constitution and By-Laws.

ARTICLE I. NAME - This organization shall be known as the West Florida Liberty Association of Free Will Baptist Churches.

ARTICLE II. OFFICERS - The officers of this association shall be Moderator, Assistant Moderator, Clerk-Treasurer, and Assistant Clerk-Treasurer. (The offices may be combined.) The officers are to be elected at the Annual Meeting and will serve a two year term.

ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP - This association shall be composed of churches in good standing according to the Faith and Practices of the Treatise of the National Association of Free Will Baptists.

Section I. Church(es) desiring membership in this association shall send delegates bearing a petitionary letter. If the above church(es) upon examination by the Credentials-Examining Committee (Ordaining Council), are found to be in order and properly organized as specified in the Treatise of the National Association of Free Will Baptists, they shall, by vote of this body, be received in full fellowship.

a. It is recommended that all churches of this association require their pastors be a member of the church which he serves, unless he pastors more than one church, then he must be a member of one of the churches he serves.

b. It is also recommended that, a church that cannot find a Free Will Baptist Pastor, be allowed to call an interim Pastor who will not preach contrary to the Doctrine of the National Association of Free Will Baptists.

ARTICLE IV. REPRESENTATION - This association shall consist of delegates from the 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 I. All ordained ministers and deacons who are in good standing with the association shall be standing delegates.

ARTICLE V. COMMITTEES AND BOARDS - The following are elected on a rotating basis, whereby one member is elected annually. The Executive Committee (5 members elected only from the standing delegates), Board of Trustees (3 members), Youth Co-Directors (2 members), Camp Board (2 members), Ordaining Council (3 members), and Mission Board (3 members). All committees and boards shall be subject to the association for their actions. All committees and boards shall give a report of their actions at each association business session.

Section I. The associational officers are members ex-officio of the above committees.

Section II. The following committees may be appointed by the moderator: Stewardship, Education, Nominations, Resolutions, Obituaries, Children's Home, and Finance.

ARTICLE VI. MEETINGS - This association shall meet quarterly on the second Saturday in January, April, July, and October for the purpose of transacting associational business.

Section I. The association may meet for fellowship only in January and July.

ARTICLE VII. STUDENT LOAN FUND - The Student Loan Fund shall be supported by a representation fee of \$10.00 per church payable quarterly and supplemented by gifts from individuals, churches, and etc.. To be eligible to receive a loan, you must be: (1) Enrolled in a Free Will Baptist Bible College, (2) Be a member in good standing of a Free Will Baptist Church in this association, (3) Shall give to the Board of Trustees of this association a promissory note.

ARTICLE VIII. FINANCES - Each church shall pay .50 dues for each active member payable quarterly.

Section I. The moderator shall receive twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) per year and the clerk one hundred dollars (\$100.00) per year. The remainder of the money shall be used for expenses of the association that may occur.

ARTICLE IX. INDEPENDENCE OF CHURCHES - Each church of this association is a distinct and independent organization, with full and absolute authority to manage its own internal and external affairs, to elect its pastor, officers, and to receive and dismiss its members.

Section I. Each church of this association shall have, hold, and control all its property, real, and otherwise. EXCEPTION: The church that is under the control of the Missions Board.

Section II. This association shall act only in an advisory capacity. Should there arise in the local church any question on doctrine, practices or discipline, the Bible, and the Treatise of the Faith and Practices of Free Will Baptists shall be considered the final authority.

ARTICLE X. QUORUM - One minister and five (5) standing delegates with six (6) delegates from three (3) or more churches of this association shall constitute a quorum.

ARTICLE XI. AMENDMENTS - This constitution may be altered or amended by a vote of the association at any regular business session, if notice of such intended alteration has been given in writing and recorded at the previous business session.

RULES OF DECORUM

1. The association, when convened, shall be opened and closed by singing and prayer.
2. Only one person shall speak at a time, and he will rise to his feet and address the moderator.
3. Each person thus speaking shall not be interrupted in speech, except by the moderator, until he gets through; nor shall the moderator interrupt him unless he breaks order.
4. The person speaking shall adhere to the question and shall in no way cast reflections on any person who may have spoken before him.
5. No person shall speak more than three times on the same subject without leave of the the association.
6. No person shall carry on conversation, one with another, so as to interrupt business while in session.
7. Members shall address each other by the appellation of brother, or brethren, or sisters.
8. No members of this association shall absent himself when the association is sitting n conference without leave of the moderator.
9. The names of the delegates of this association shall be enrolled and called as often as the association thinks is necessary.
10. No member shall speak longer than fifteen minutes at one time without leave of the moderator.
11. Visiting brethren shall be entitled to a seat to discuss subjects, but not to vote.

BY-LAWS TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE
WEST FLORIDA LIBERTY ASSOCIATION OF
FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCHES

ARTICLE I. Duties of Associational Offices.

Section 1. Moderator - The moderator shall preside over all meetings of the association; appoint temporary committees, and call the members of the Executive Committee together when necessary.

Section 2. Assistant Moderator - The assistant Moderator shall preside over the meetings of the association in the absence of the moderator. He shall assist the moderator in the general work of the association. He shall assume the duties of the moderator in his absence.

Section 3. Provision for Moderator - In case of the absence of both the moderator and assistant moderator, the body shall elect the moderator for that session.

Section 4. Clerk - The clerk shall record the proceedings of the business sessions of the association and of the executive committee, and shall edit and have them printed into annual minutes for the general information of the member churches.

Clerk shall also (1) collect the letters and reports from the churches (2) prepare the associational report to the Florida State Association of Free Will Baptist Churches (3) prepare all correspondence for the association (4) if replaced, turn all records of the association over to the successor in office (5) give the report of meetings to the association.

Section 5. Treasurer.- The treasurer shall have charge of all association funds. He/she shall keep a record of all monies received and paid out by the association, make and give a financial report at each business session of the association, disburse funds at the direction of the association, and if replaced, turn all records of the association with the funds over to his/her successor in office.

ARTICLE II. Committees.

Section 1. Executive Committee - The executive committee shall act for the association of churches when it is not in session on things that cannot wait till the association is in regular session.

a. This committee shall plan and arrange the year's program for all sessions of the association.

b. This committee shall act as the promotional agency for the various work of the association.

c. This committee shall be called into session when necessary by the moderator or in his absence assistant moderator.

d. This Committee shall give a report of all business to the association.

Section II. Ordaining Council (Credentials and Examining Committee - All members of this committee shall be from the standing delegates (ordained ministers and deacons) and shall be members of this association in good standing.

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.