



**West  
Florida  
Liberty  
Association**

**OF**

**Free Will Baptist  
1992  
Minutes**

# WEST FLORIDA LIBERTY ASSOCIATION

## OFFICERS AND BOARDS

### OFFICERS

Moderator . . . . . Rev. Randy Hill  
Assistant Moderator . . . . . Rev. David Williford  
Clerk/Treasurer . . . . . Beverly Hartzog  
Asst. Clerk/Treasurer . . . . . Kathy Burch

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Mr. Ed Sweigart ..... 1993  
Mr. Ross Pippin ..... 1994  
Rev. Frank Willis ... 1995  
Mr. Aron Burch ..... 1996  
Mr. Jim Roney ..... 1997

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Mr. Jim Roney ..... 1993  
Mr. Ralph Toole ..... 1994  
Mr. Archie Cook ..... 1995

### YOUTH CO-DIRECTORS

Mrs. Lunell Duncan... 1993  
Rev. Jeff Skiles .... 1994

### CAMP BOARD

Mr. Aron Burch ..... 1993  
Mr. Sammy Hayes ..... 1994

### MISSION BOARD

Rev. Randy Hill ..... 1993  
Rev. Wayne Hartzog... 1994  
Mr. Ernest Owen ..... 1995

### ORDAINING COUNCIL

Rev. David Williford. 1993  
Mr. Thomas Porter ... 1994  
Rev. Randy Hill ..... 1995

### STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Rev. David Williford

### COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Nominating Committee ... Aron Burch, Howard McAdams, Ed Sweigart  
Resolutions Committee ... Ernest Owen, Ross Pippin, Archie Cook  
Obituary Committee ... Etha Mae Owen, Sharon Cooper, Marie George  
Education Committee/Library ... David Williford, Lavon Crawford,  
Gayla Whitehead

1992 - 1993

CHURCH

Abigail FWB Church  
P.O. Box 927  
Vernon, FL 32462

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

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

Piney Grove FWB Church  
Rt. 5, Box 312  
Chipley, FL 32428  
638-7064

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

St. Johns FWB Church  
Rt. 1, Box 1140  
Bonifay, FL 32425  
547-3337

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

OTHER MINISTERS

Rev. Wayne Hartzog  
Rt. 7, Box 312  
Chipley, FL 32428  
638-0706

PASTOR

Rev. John Holland  
Rt. 4, Box 17  
Bonifay, FL 32425  
547-3082

Rev. David Williford  
705 W. Forest Avenue  
Chipley, FL 32428  
638-0046

Rev. Jeff Skiles  
2306 W. 21st Street  
Panama City, FL 32405

Rev. Randy Hill  
Rt. 5, Box 388  
Chipley, FL 32428  
638-1904

Michael Waddell  
Rt. 1, Box 819  
Bonifay, FL 32425  
535-2851

Rev. David Hidle  
P.O. Box 958  
Slocomb, AL 36375  
205-886-3477

NONE

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

CLERKSAbigail FWB Church

Ouida Cook  
P.O. Box 927  
Vernon, FL 32462  
535-2053

First FWB Church of Chipley

Connie Sweigart  
588 Quintara Court  
Sunny Hills, FL 32428  
773-2150

Liberty FWB Church

Myrtle Miller  
Rt. 1, Box 519  
Caryville, FL 32427  
535-2408

First FWB Church of Panama City

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

Piney Grove FWB Church

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

Pleasant Hill FWB Church

Gearldine Burch  
Rt. 1, Box 775  
Bonifay, FL 32425  
535-1010

St. Johns FWB Church

Lydia Goodman  
307 N. 6th St. (North Apt.)  
Chipley, FL 32428

DEACONS

NONE

Ernest Owen  
Rt. 5, Box 302  
Chipley, FL  
638-1472 32428

Leslie Miller  
Route 1  
Caryville, FL 32427  
535-2343

Howard McAdams  
1902 Calhoun Ave.  
P.C., FL 32405  
763-7056

Lavon Crawford  
Rt. 1, Box 32A  
Bonifay, FL  
638-0015 32425

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

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

Thomas Porter  
Rt. 2, Box 629  
Blountstown, FL  
674-4228 32424

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

L.D. Helms  
Rt. 1, Box 797  
Bonifay, FL  
535-2078 32425

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

Ed Sweigart  
588 Quintara Ct.  
Sunny Hills, FL  
773-2150 32428

James Roney  
8137 Cluster Rd.  
P.C., FL 32404  
872-8681

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

Sammy Hayes  
Rt. 1, Box 755  
Bonifay, FL 32425  
535-4295

LIBERTY ASSOCIATION CLERK

Beverly Hartzog  
Rt. 7, Box 312  
Chipley, FL 32428  
638-0706

# FIRST QUARTERLY MEETING

January 11, 1992

First FWB Church of Chipley

The meeting began with congregational singing. Bro. Williford led in prayer.

Moderator Randy Hill read I Chron. 4:10 "God grant that which we request."

MS&C to seat the delegates.

The minutes of the annual meeting of Oct. 12, 1991, were approved as read.

MS&C to set the fee for the Student Loan Fund at \$ .50 per active church member per church per quarter. It was pointed out that gifts may be made to the Student Loan Fund in memory of someone.

Bro. Jim Roney presented the Executive Committee's proposal to amend Article 6 of the Constitution to read:

This Association shall meet on the second Friay evening in January and July for fellowship and on the second Saturday in April and October for both fellowship and the conducting of business. Business may be conducted on the second Friday evening of January and July, if necessary.

Delete Article 6, Section 1.

MS&C to table this proposed Constitutional change until the next meeting.

Bro. David Williford presented a proposal for setting up the Ordaining and Examining Council.

MEMBERSHIP: Composed of all ordained ministers and deacons in good standing with the West Florida Liberty Association. Ministers who are members of churches in the West Florida Liberty Association who do not have cards of good standing do not have the approval of this body to present themselves in other FWB meetings as a FWB minister in good standing. Any minister or deacon not having a card of good standing shall not be considered a standing delegate to the West Florida Liberty Association.

PURPOSE: Ordination of ministers and ratification of credentials of incoming ministers.

RESPONSIBILITIES: This body is responsible for trying all ordained members of unchristian conduct. Any "trials" must be conducted in accordance with procedures outlined in "The Practices of Free Will Baptist," Chapter 2, Section 2 in A Treatise of the Faith and Practices of Free Will Baptists.



This body shall have power to try and withdraw fellowship from any member upon evidence of unchristian conduct, or who is preaching or teaching heresy, or who has proven to be disloyal to the tenets of faith as expressed in the Treatise of the National Association of Free Will Baptists.

This will be associational policy and will not need action on the Constitution. The Ordaining Council elected by the Association will still examine candidates for ordination. They will then report their recommendation to the Ordaining and Examining Council who will make the final decision and report their actions to the West Florida Liberty Association.

MS&C to accept the Ordaining and Examining Council as presented.

MS&C to delete Article II, Section 2(c) from the By-Laws of the Constitution. It presently reads: Any recommendation from this committee must come before the body for approval or disapproval.

Bro. Hill presented the recommendation that Article VII of the Constitution concerning the name of the Student Loan Fund be changed. MS&C to table the proposed name change to the Linda Cook Hummel Memorial Student Loan Fund until the meeting in April, 1992.

Bro. Allan Austin presented the recommendation of the Executive Committee that \$300 be appropriated for the Library Committee for 1991-1992 to purchase videos for the associational library. MS&C that \$300 be set aside for purchase of videos by the Library Committee.

MS&C that the Library Committee report its recommendations to the Executive Committee for approval prior to purchases being made.

The report of the Library Committee was inadvertently left out of the 1991 minutes and is incorporated herein for information:

1. The library shall be under the supervision of the Library Committee.
2. Concentration will be upon resources such as audio and video tapes, or material in a series or outline studies.
3. The contents of the library will center upon Biblical teaching and the promotion of Christian living as ordered by the Treatise of FWB.
4. Cost: \$300 set up fee
5. Rental Fee:
  - a. Reimbursement of postage
  - b. \$10 late fee
  - c. Schedule or check out of material is to be through librarian

The First FWB Church of Panama City volunteered to host the July quarterly meeting.

The treasurer's report was accepted as read.

MS&C to adjourn the business session.

Page 3 - Minutes  
January 11, 1992

Morning worship began with congregational singing.

Rev. Jeff Skiles, Pastor of the First FWB Church of Panama City,  
brought the morning message from Eph. 5:18 "Spirit filled lives."

Offering: \$43.50

Sent with church letters: \$183.50

Beverly Hartzog  
Clerk

## SECOND QUARTERLY MEETING

April 11, 1992

Abigail FWB Church

The meeting began with congregational singing. Bro. Holland led in prayer.

Moderator Randy Hill read Luke 2:49 stressing the need to attend to the Lord's business--not treat it as a sideline.

After roll call of delegates, MS&C to seat the delegates.

MS&C to accept the minutes of the 1-11-92 meeting.

MS&C to remove the following proposal from the table:

This Association shall meet on the second Friday evening in January and July for fellowship and on the second Saturday in April and October for both fellowship and the conducting of business. Business may be conducted on the second Friday evening of January and July, if necessary.

Delete Article 6, Section 1.

MS&C to amend the Constitution as proposed.

The First FWB Church of Panama City will host the first Friday evening meeting on July 10, 1992.

MS&C to remove from the table the item concerning renaming the Student Loan Fund in Article VII of the Constitution.

MS&C that the Student Loan Fund be renamed the Linda Cook Hummel Memorial Student Loan Fund.

The treasurer's report was given showing a balance of \$6,664.54 in the Linda Cook Hummel Memorial SLF and \$1,659.88 in the General Fund.

Bro. Ross Pippin presented the recommendation of the Executive Board that the association purchase 10 8' tables for Camp Mt. Pleasant at an approximate cost of \$400.00. MS&C that the tables be purchased.

Sammy Hayes, treasurer of Camp Mt. Pleasant, gave a report on the work being done there and the different needs.

Delegates to the State Association in Ocala on May 27-29 were appointed: Jeff Skiles, Etha Mae Owen. MS&C that the Moderator be given the authority to appoint additional delegates if others are able to attend the meeting.

MS&C that we pay the entrance fees for the youth that will be representing our association in the State Youth Competition in Ocala. Luenell Duncan reported that the cost is approximately \$15.00 per group.



Page 2 - Minutes  
April 11, 1992  
Abigail FWB Church

MS&C that this be a standing policy that our Association pay the entrance fees each year for the young people that represent us in the State Competition.

It was reported that Bro. David Williford will represent the Liberty Association in working on the coop plan of support.

Beverly Hartzog will serve as the one responsible for sending news from this Association to the Co-Ordinator.

The seminar, "Your Finances in Changing Times", scheduled for May 1-2 was discussed.

MS&C to adjourn. Rev. Austin dismissed in prayer.

The morning worship service began with congregational singing. Ernest Owen led in prayer.

An offering of \$38.20 was taken.

Rev. Ernest Laxton brought the morning message from Psalms 96:9a about worship and yielding our lives to God.

Beverly K. Hartzog  
Clerk

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FELLOWSHIP MEETING

July 10, 1992

Panama City FWB Church

The meeting opened with prayer by Bro. Hidle, pastor of the St. Johns FWB Church.

Rev. Jeff Skiles led in congregational singing.

Special music was presented by: Piney Grove FWB Choir, Tamara Duncan, the Panama City Ensemble, and Rev. Jeff Skiles.

After a short testimoney service, Rev. David Williford brought the message from John 17 and Ephesians 4 emphasizing unity by the people of God.

Approximately 90-95 attended. An offering of \$48.34 was received along with \$207.00 in dues and student loan fees.

Beverly K. Hartzog, Clerk

## ANNUAL MEETING

October 10, 1992

### Piney Grove Free Will Baptist Church

After congregational singing, Bro. Ernest Owen opened the meeting with prayer.

Moderator Randy Hill read I John 4:11 emphasizing "Let us love one another."

After roll call of delegates, MS&C to seat the delegates.

The minutes of the 4-11-92 meeting and the 7-11-92 fellowship meeting were approved as read.

The yearly treasurer's report was approved.

Bro. David Williford presented the proposed Coop Plan of Support that was adopted by the Florida State Association in May, 1992. MS&C that Liberty Association adopt this plan of support which will be that we send 60% of our money to the State Coop and keep 40% in our local association.

The adoption of the Coop plan of support will necessitate a change in the Constitution in Article VIII regarding the amount of dues each church shall pay quarterly.

MS&C to table the Constitutional change until the January, 1993 meeting. The following is the proposed change:

#### ARTICLE VIII. FINANCES --

Presently reads: Each church shall pay \$ .50 dues for each active member payable quarterly.

Proposed change: Each church shall pay quarterly dues as recommended by the Executive Committee and approved by the voting body.

MS&C to accept the proposed plan regarding the breakdown of the 40% Coop money that is kept in the Liberty Association. (Copy attached to minutes)

Sammy Hayes, camp treasurer, reported on the status of Camp Mt. Pleasant.

The Ordaining Council report was given: Jeff Skiles has been recommended for ordination. His ordination services will be October 12, 1992, at the First FWB Church of Panama City, FL. Rev. David Hidle's credentials were approved and he was accepted into the Liberty Association.

**LIBERTY ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
COOPERATIVE GIVING PROPOSAL**

**Cooperative Giving Division**

60% sent to Florida State Association  
40% remaining in Liberty Association  
100%

***Proposed Breakdown of Amount Remaining in Association [40%]***

Youth Camp	25%
General fund	
Youth Fund	20%
Retreats, activities, youth competitive activities & fees,	
Mission Board	20%
Conferences, joint missions project, mission trips	
Fellowship of Encouragement	15%
A ministry to adults: including seminars, retreats, educational opportunities	
Linda Cook Hummel Memorial Student Loan Fund	10%
Library Fund	5%
General Fund	5%
Includes: printing costs, clerk's fees, state dues, miscellaneous expenses	
	<u>100%</u>

**RECOMMENDATION:**

1. If church tithes 10% to Liberty Association Cooperative Plan: reduce Association dues to \$10 per quarter per church and delete Student Loan Fund contribution.
2. For churches not tithing 10% to Liberty Association Cooperative Plan but contributing a lesser percentage: reduce Association dues to \$15 per quarter and \$10 per quarter to Student Loan Fund
3. For churches choosing not to tithe a percentage to the Liberty Association Cooperative Plan: set Association dues at \$25 per quarter and \$20 per quarter to Student Loan Fund
4. As Recommended by the Florida State Association of Free Will Baptists, we propose that 5% of a church's tithe to the Cooperative Plan be designated to their pastor's retirement account with the Free Will Baptist Board of Retirement in Nashville. (Note: In order to participate in this retirement plan a pastor must be a participant in the Board of Retirement program.)

The report of the nominating committee was presented. Proposed changes are in parentheses:

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

### OFFICERS

Moderator . . . . . Rev. Randy Hill  
Assistant Moderator . . . . . Rev. David Williford  
Clerk/Treasurer . . . . . Beverly Hartzog  
Asst. Clerk/Treasurer . . . . . Loreida Austin (KATHY BURCH)

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Mr. Jim Roney .... 1992 (JIM RONEY - 1997)  
Rev. Allan Austin. 1993 (ED SWEIGART - 1993)  
Mr. Ross Pippin... 1994  
Rev. Frank Willis. 1995  
Mr. Aron Burch.... 1996

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Mr. Archie Cook ..... 1992 (ARCHIE COOK - 1995)  
Mr. Jim Roney ..... 1993  
Rev. Ernest Laxton ... 1994 (RALPH TOOLE - 1994)

### YOUTH CO-DIRECTORS

Mrs. Loreida Austin ... 1992 (REV. JEFF SKILES - 1994)  
Mrs. Lunell Duncan ... 1993

### CAMP BOARD

Mr. Sammy Hayes..... 1992 (SAMMY HAYES - 1994)  
Mr. Aron Burch ..... 1993

### MISSION BOARD

Mr. Ernest Owen ..... 1992 (ERNEST OWEN - 1995)  
Rev. Randy Hill ..... 1993  
Rev. Wayne Hartzog ... 1994

### ORDAINING COUNCIL

Rev. Ernest Laxton ... 1992 (REV. RANDY HILL - 1995)  
Rev. David Williford.. 1993  
Mr. Thomas Porter .... 1994

### STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Rev. David Williford

### COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Nominating Committee - Aron Burch, Howard McAdams, Ed Sweigart  
Resolutions Committee - Ernest Owen, Ross Pippin, Archie Cook  
Obituary Committee - Etha Mae Owen, Sharon Cooper, Marie George  
Education Committee/Library - David Williford, Lavon Crawford, Gayla Whitehead

MS&C to elect the nominees as presented.



A report from the Library Committee was given by Bro. David Williford.

MS&C that David Williford continue to serve as Liberty Association's representative to the Florida State Association.

The following churches volunteered to host the 1993 meetings:

January 8, 1993 - Pleasant Hill FWB Church (Fellowship Meeting)  
April 10, 1993 - First FWB Church of Chipley  
July 9, 1993 - First FWB Church of Panama City (Fellowship Meeting)  
October 9, 1993 - St. Johns FWB Church

Thomas Porter of the Ordaining Council presented the proposal to give Jeff Skiles \$100 toward purchasing study materials in honor of his ordination. MS&C to give Bro. Skiles \$100.

Lavon Crawford thanked the association for the gift to his daughter, Teresa, while she was in "Truth and Peace" during the summer.

Bro. David Williford reported the State Christian Education Board was hosting a pastor's retreat January 25-27 and encouraged the churches to send their pastors. The cost is approximately \$75.00.

Bro. Randy Hill made the proposal that the Youth Co-Directors be increased to three members with rotating terms.

MS&C to table the following changes to the Constitution and By-Laws until the next meeting:

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 (3 members), Camp Board (2 members), Ordaining Council (3 members), and Mission Board (3 members).

By-Laws, Article II, Section 5, Youth Co-Directors - This committee shall consist of three (3) members elected to terms of one for three years, one for two years, and one for one year.

Marie Owens presented the Obituary Report:

Piney Grove: Earl Cook, Ida Toole, Zella Peel

Pleasant Hill: Buddy Woodham

St. Johns: Preston Hewett

(Following the meeting, it was brought to our attention that two names had been left off in prior years: Thomas Duncan and Thelma Owens from Piney Grove.)

MS&C to adjourn. Prayer by Sammy Hayes.



The morning worship service began at 11:00 AM. Prayer by Bro. Frank Willis.

Sammy Hayes challenged the association to be more actively involved in supporting missions.

Following prayer requests, Thomas Porter led in prayer.

An offering of \$87.52 was received.

Rev. David Hidle, pastor of St. Johns FWB Church, brought the morning message from Heb. 13:8 "The Changing Times We Live In."

Beverly Hartzog, Clerk

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TREASURER'S REPORT  
GENERAL FUND

Balance on hand	\$1,757.24
Deposits	
Association Dues and Offerings	538.54
Interest	45.15
TOTAL ON HAND	<u>2,340.93</u>

EXPENSES:

Moderator's Fee	\$ 25.00	
Clerk's Fee	100.00	
Library Fund	272.95	
COOP	49.88	
Postage	19.69	
Teresa Crawford		
"Truth & Peace"	250.00	
Youth Board entry fees	40.00	
Camp Mt. Pleasant-tables	400.00	
State Assoc.-Dues	90.00	
Seminar "Your Finances		
in Changing Times"	150.00	
Checks, letterhead		
paper, bulletins	124.51	
Total Expenses		<u>1,522.03</u>
Balance on hand 10-1-92		\$ 818.90

STUDENT LOAN FUND

Balance on hand	\$6,552.68
Deposits - Dues	303.00
Interest	249.91
Repayment of Student Loan	<u>1,292.14</u>
Balance on hand 10-1-92	\$8,397.73

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. (These 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 1. 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 1. 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 1. The associational officers are members ex-officio of the above committees.

Section II. The following committees may be appointed by the Moderator: Nominations, Resolutions, and Obituaries.

ARTICLE VI. MEETINGS - This Association shall meet on the second Friday evening in January and July for fellowship and on the second Saturday in April and October for both fellowship and the conducting of business. Business may be conducted on the second Friday evening of January and July, if necessary.

ARTICLE VII. LINDA COOK HUMMEL MEMORIAL STUDENT LOAN FUND - The Linda Cook Hummel Memorial Student Loan Fund shall be supported by each church with a representation fee as recommended by the Executive Committee and approved by the voting body. This fee is payable quarterly and may be supplemented by gifts from individuals, churches, etc. To be eligible to receive a loan, the student: (1) Must be enrolled in Free Will Baptist Bible College in Nashville, Tennessee, (2) Must be a member in good standing of a Free Will Baptist Church in this association which regularly supports the Linda Cook Hummel Memorial Student Loan Fund, (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 questions on doctrine, practices or discipline, the Bible, and the Treatise of the Faith and Practices of the 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.



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

ARTICLE I. DUTIES OF THE 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 meeting 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, 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 until 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, by the Assistant Moderator.

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

Section 2. 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.

a. It shall be the duty of this committee to examine all candidates (ministers) at the request of the local church, for ordination. All licenses (not ordination) for the ministry shall be given by the local church, examined by the ordaining council upon request.

b. Ministers coming from other associations shall be examined by this committee according to the Faith and Practice in the Treatise of Free Will Baptists and the Holy Scriptures at the request of the local church.

c. Ministers departing this Association will, upon request, be given a letter of recommendation providing that he is in good standing with the Association, and has no formal charge filed against him by the church he is leaving.

Section 3. Mission Committee - There shall be a mission committee consisting of three (3) members elected to terms, one for three years; one for two years; one for one year. Their duties:

a. To promote mission work in this Association.

b. To coordinate the needs of our missionaries (home and foreign) to each of our churches in this Association. To plan, organize, and supervise mission work in the Association.

c. To report to the Association.

Section 4. Board of Trustees - The Board of Trustees is to be in charge of all deeds, paper work dealing with the property of the Association.

a. To regulate and see after the Student Loan Fund.

b. To collect funds on the promissory notes.

c. To report to the Association.

Section 5. Youth Co-Directors - This committee shall consist of two (2) members elected to terms of one for two years, and one for one year. Their duties are:

a. To organize, plan, and supervise the youth rallies, CTS competition, Sunday School promotion, and summer camps, etc., for the Association.

b. To promote our Association among our youth.

c. To report to the Association.

Section 6. Camp Board - The duties of the camp board are:

a. To coordinate the work of the camp between our association and sister associations.

b. To help maintain the camp.

c. To plan calendar events for the camp.

d. To coordinate with youth co-directors the programs for the camp. (association).



## 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 questions 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 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, brethren, or sisters.
8. No members of this Association shall absent himself when the Association is sitting in 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.

# 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.