



**West  
Florida  
Liberty  
Association**

**OF**

**Free Will Baptist  
1993  
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 . . . . .	Beverly Skiles

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Mr. Ross Pippin . . . . .	1994
Rev. Frank Willis . . . . .	1995
Mr. Aron Burch . . . . .	1996
Mr. Jim Roney . . . . .	1997
Mr. Ed Sweigart . . . . .	1998

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Mr. Ralph Toole . . . . .	1994
Mr. Archie Cook . . . . .	1995
Mr. Jim Roney . . . . .	1996

### YOUTH COMMITTEE

Rev. Jeff Skiles . . . . .	1994
Mr. Sammy Hayes . . . . .	1995
Rev. Orville Whitacre. . . . .	1996

### CAMP BOARD

Mr. Sammy Hayes . . . . .	1994
Mr. Aron Burch . . . . .	1995

### MISSION BOARD

Rev. Wayne Hartzog .. . . .	1994
Mr. Ernest Owen . . . . .	1995
Rev. Jeff Skiles . . . . .	1996

### ORDAINING COUNCIL

Mr. Thomas Porter ... . .	1994
Rev. Randy Hill . . . . .	1995
Rev. David Williford. . . . .	1996

### STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Rev. David Williford
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### COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Nominating Committee ...	Executive Committee
Resolutions Committee ...	Executive Committee
Obituary Committee ...	Etha Mae Owen, Sharon Cooper, Marie George
Education Committee/Library ...	Rev. David Williford, Lavon Crawford. Rev. David Hidle
Fellowship of Encouragement Committee ...	Pam Taylor, Donna Williford, Rev. Randy Hill, Rev. David Hidle, Myra Henderson

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 /Rev. Frank Willis  
Rt. 4, Box 17      St. Rt., Box A-1  
Bonifay, FL 32425      Vernon, FL 32462  
547-3082      535-2894

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

Rev. Jeff Skiles  
2306 W. 21st Street  
Panama City, FL 32405  
763-2321

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

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

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

NONE

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6 Churches Reporting  
309 - Total Membership  
297 - Average Attendance

CLERKSDEACONSAbigail FWB Church

NONE

Ouida Cook

P.O. Box 927

Vernon, FL 32462

535-2053

First FWB Church of Chipley

Jimmie Lou Russell

Ernest Owen

Thomas Porter

Ed Sweigart

606 W. Jackson Avenue

Rt. 5, Box 302

Rt. 2, Box 629

588 Quintara Ct.

Chipley, FL 32428

Chipley, FL

Blountstown, FL

Sunny Hills, FL

638-1728

638-1472 32428

674-4228 32424

773-2150 32428

Liberty FWB Church

Myrtle Miller

Leslie Miller

Rt. 1, Box 519

Rt. 1

Caryville, FL 32427

Caryville, FL 32427

535-2408

535-2343

First FWB Church of Panama City

Lydia Lynn

Howard McAdams

Ross Pippin

James Roney

802B Magnolia Avenue

1902 Calhoun Ave.

4931 Hwy 398

8137 Cluster Road

Panama City, FL 32401

P.C., FL 32405

Lynn Haven, FL

P.C., FL 32404

763-7337

763-7056

265-5552 32444

872-8681

Piney Grove FWB Church

Myra D. Henderson

Lavon Crawford

Houston Toole

Ralph Toole

Rt. 5, Box 382

Rt. 1, Box 496

Rt. 5, Box 446

Rt. 5, Box 305

Chipley, FL 32428

Bonifay, FL

Chipley, FL

Chipley, FL 32428

638-1193

638-0015 32425

638-0674 32428

638-1119

Pleasant Hill FWB Church

Gearldine Burch

Aron Burch

L.D. Helms

Sammy Hayes

Rt. 1, Box 775

Rt. 1, Box 742

Rt. 1, Box 797

Rt. 1, Box 755

Bonifay, FL 32425

Bonifay, FL 32425

Bonifay, FL

Bonifay, FL 32425

535-1010

535-2135

535-2078

535-4295

St. Johns FWB Church

Vera Locke

Jack Hewett

Ray Garrett

504 Montana Street

Rt. 1

Rt. 1

Bonifay, FL 32425

Bonifay, FL

Bonifay, FL 32425

547-2654

547-4943

547-3809

LIBERTY ASSOCIATION CLERK

Beverly K. Hartzog

Rt. 7, Box 312

Chipley, FL 32428

638-0706

# FELLOWSHIP MEETING

January 8, 1993

Pleasant Hill FWB Church

Bro. David Williford welcomed everyone to the second fellowship meeting.  
Bro. Lavon Crawford led in prayer.

David Williford, Assistant Moderator, called the body to order for a few items of business that had been tabled at the previous meeting.

MS&C by the standing delegates to seat the church delegates.

MS&C to remove the item from the table regarding dues to the Association.

MS&C to adopt the Constitutional change as follows:

ARTICLE VIII. FINANCES - Each church shall pay quarterly dues as recommended by the Executive Committee and approved by the voting body.

MS&C to accept the following as the schedule of dues to the Association:

1. If a church tithes 10% to the 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.

MS&C to remove from the table the recommendation regarding changing the number of Youth Co-Directors to three instead of two members.

MS&C to amend the recommendation by changing the name to Youth Committee.

MS&C to adopt the proposed change as amended:

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

By-Laws, Article II, Section 5, Youth Committee - 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.

Special music was presented by Rev. Jeff Skiles, Aray Burch, Mike and Marianne Waddell. Congregational singing was led by Aray Burch.

An offering of \$59.00 was received with approximately 80 in attendance.

Rev. Frank Willis brought the evening message from John 9:35 "What is Worship."

Beverly K. Hartzog  
Clerk



WEST FLORIDA LIBERTY ASSOCIATION

First FWB Church of Chipley

April 3, 1993

Sammy Hayes opened the meeting with prayer. Rev. David Williford welcomed everyone to the Chipley Church and the Liberty Association meeting.

Moderator Randy Hill read from Acts 6 stressing "Learning our Limits" and using them to meet the needs of those within our limits.

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

Minutes of the Jan. 8, 1993 meeting were approved as read.

The six month treasurer's report was accepted as presented.

The following Youth Committee was elected: 1994 Jeff Skiles  
1995 Sammy Hayes  
1996 Michael Waddell

David Williford discussed the problems regarding missions and the work in Spain. MS&C to adopt Resolution #1 reaffirming our support of the Foreign Missions Department, the General Director and our missionaries.

RESOLUTION #1

Whereas the integrity of our Foreign Missions Department, its General Director, and certain missionaries have been called into question, and

Whereas all of our missionaries personally believe in, practice and teach the Church Covenant, and

Whereas all of our missionaries believe in, practice, and teach total abstinence from alcohol,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we reaffirm our confidence in our Foreign Missions Department, our General Director, and our missionaries.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we encourage our people to continue supporting the ministry of our Foreign Missions Department.

A motion was made and seconded that Resolution 2 be adopted which calls for the resignation of three national board members because of unethical practices and that this resolution be presented to the Executive Committee of the Florida State Association.

A motion was made by Rev. Jeff Skiles and seconded that we amend the motion and change the wording from asking for the resignation of the three board members to rebuke them for their practices and not call for their resignation. The motion failed by a majority vote. (5 voted for the motion.)

The motion to adopt Resolution 2 and present it to the Florida State Association carried by a majority vote. (5 voted against the motion.)

RESOLUTION 2

Whereas the integrity of our Foreign Missions Department, its General Director, and certain missionaries have been called into question, and

Whereas we affirm our support for them, and

Whereas the accusations are being made against our Department and missionaries by a group known as "Contenders For The Covenant", and

Whereas Norwood Gibson, the chairman of the Foreign Missions Board, has unethically revealed to this group actions of board and field council meetings, and

Whereas Rue Dell Smith and Earl Hendrix, who are members of the National Home Missions Board, have chosen to publicly identify and affiliate with the "Contenders For The Covenant";

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we condemn as unethical the conduct of our Foreign Missions Board Chairman, Norwood Gibson, and the actions of Home Missions Board Members, Rue Dell Smith and Earl Hendrix, and hereby call for their resignation from the National Boards.

BE IT RESOLVED that we submit this resolution to the Executive Committee of the Florida State Association of Free Will Baptists for adoption by the State Association and the National Association of Free Will Baptists.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if this resolution is not recommended by the Executive Committee to the Florida State Association, we direct our Executive Committee member to present it to the body from the floor of the State Association.

Delegates to the Florida State Association in May, 1993 were appointed: Marianne Waddell and Etha Mae Owen.

MS&C to give Randy Hill authority to appoint additional delegates at the Florida State Association.

David Williford, moderator of the Presbytery, reported that Michael Waddell had been approved for ordination and the date of his ordination services would be announced later.

Michael Waddell discussed the youth retreat planned at Camp Mt. Pleasant on April 16-17 with the FWBBC drama team.

Frank Willis announced that on 4-26-93, D.W. Poole (a FWB minister) would be 88 years old and he encouraged people that knew him to send him a card or some type of remembrance.

MS&C to give Michael Waddell \$100 for study materials in honor of his ordination.

MS&C to adjourn. Prayer by Ernest Owen.

After a short recess, the morning worship service began with special music by Teresa Crawford.

Special music was also presented by the Liberty Association pastors and their wives.

An offering of \$71.21 was received with approximately 70 in attendance.

Michael Waddell brought the morning message from I Kings 19 regarding encouragement.

The meeting dismissed in prayer by Thomas Porter.

Beverly K. Hartzog  
Clerk

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FELLOWSHIP MEETING

July 9, 1993

First FWB Church  
of Panama City

Congregational singing was led by Rev. Jeff Skiles. Moderator Randy Hill welcomed everyone to the third fellowship meeting of the Liberty Association.

Special music was presented by the: Panama City Men's Quartet, Piney Grove choir, Helen Roney, Mike and Marianne Waddell, and the Florida State Ministers' Quartet composed of Tim Owen, Randy Hill, Jeff Skiles, and Mike Waddell.

An offering of \$65.25 was received.

Rev. Tim Owen brought the message about five ways we can show our gratitude to God: 1. Obedience, 2. Being involved in service, 3. Giving, 4. Contentment, and 5. Longing for deeper fellowship.

The meeting dismissed in prayer. The host church served refreshments in the Fellowship Hall.

Approximately 85 attended.

Beverly K. Hartzog  
Clerk



# ANNUAL MEETING

October 9, 1993

## ST. JOHNS FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. David Williford called the meeting to order. Bro. Jim Roney led in prayer. Donnie Russell led the congregation in singing "Standing on the Promises" and "Victory in Jesus."

Moderator Randy Hill read Matthew 5:4 "Blessed are they that mourn for they shall be comforted." Jesus cares about His people and in today's world, we need each other and we also need an association of churches.

MS&C to seat the delegates.

The minutes of the April 3, 1993, meeting were approved as read.

The treasurer's report was accepted as presented. (See page 9)

MS&C to give the Executive Board the authority to spend up to \$200 per item without coming before the voting body at an associational meeting.

Aron Burch gave a report on the work at Camp Mt. Pleasant. It has been a good year for the camp. Plans are underway to begin construction of another dormitory.

Rev. David Williford presented the following report from the Library Committee:

Our video library contains four (4) sets of video instruction. Current set includes Church Leaders Under Fire (5 tapes), The Basic Creation Series (13 tapes), and FWB Doctrine (3 tapes). These tapes are available for church, group, or individual use.

Church Leaders Under Fire deals with problems faced by all believers, but especially preachers, deacons, SS teachers, and other leaders. The tapes discuss burnout, family priorities, maintaining moral purity, and sources of conflict in church life. These tapes are under 30 minutes each and provide a good springboard for discussion in Sunday School or group settings.

The Basic Creation Series is produced by the Institute for Creation Research, an organization firmly committed to belief in creation as described in Genesis 1 and 2. Each video takes a particular topic and shows how scientific data actually supports the case for Biblical creation rather than evolution. Each tape is approximately 50 minutes long, and at times can be somewhat technical. Because of the length and scientific content, it is recommended for high school students and adults. Topics include "The Origin of the Universe", "The Genesis Flood", "The Age of the Earth", "The Bible and Modern Science", and others. This is an excellent series and can be of major help to students being confronted by evolutionary teaching, as well as adults who may not understand the importance of creation as a doctrine of Scripture.

WEST FLORIDA LIBERTY ASSOCIATION  
of FREE WILL BAPTISTS

Treasurer's Report  
10-1-92 / 9-30-93

\$ 818.90 Balance on Hand 10-1-92  
16,033.98 Deposits  
    Dues & Offerings \$628.48  
    Interest 62.49  
    Student Loan Fund 65.00  
    Coop Receipts 12,578.01  
    Back-to-School  
        Retreat 2,700.00  
\$16,852.88 TOTAL ON HAND

-13,307.71 Paid Out  
    Ordination Gifts 200.00  
    COOP (60%) 7,294.11  
    Camp Mt. Pleasant 1,210.90  
    Student Loan Fund 549.33  
    Clerk's Fee 100.00  
    Moderator's Fee 25.00  
    Pastors' Retirement 278.00  
    FL State-Dues 90.00  
    Videos 114.40  
    State Comp. Fee 12.00  
    Back-to-School  
        Retreat 3,280.00  
    Tim Owen-guest 100.00  
        speaker  
    Office Supplies & 53.97  
        miscellaneous

\*\* \$ 3,545.17 BALANCE ON HAND 9-30-93

\*\* ACCOUNT BALANCES

\$ 999.99 General Fund  
154.86 Library Fund  
632.73 Youth Fund  
968.68 Mission Board  
626.52 Fellowship of Encouragement  
162.39 Retirement Fund  
\$3,545.17

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LINDA COOK HUMMEL MEMORIAL STUDENT LOAN FUND

\$8,397.73 Balance 10-1-92  
704.83 COOP & Dues  
250.06 Interest  
\$9,352.62 Balance 9-30-93

Free Will Baptist Doctrine features Dr. Robert Picirilli, long time professor and denominational leader, as he explains our doctrine as set forth in our Treatise. A part of the External Studies Program at FWBBC, these tapes are taught on a level one would expect to find in a college classroom. These tapes are broken into lectures ranging from 15 to 30 minutes each, making them ideal for a serious group study during SS or some other time.

Our latest addition deals with marriage and features widely known and respected marriage counselor, H. Norman Wright. In this five (5) part video series, Wright discusses such areas of concern as communication, resolving conflict, how to really love your spouse, and building on a solid foundation. This is an excellent series for any married couple, or for any couple planning on marriage.

Let us encourage you to take advantage of these tapes for your own private study or for group study. If you have a VCR, you now have access to material that can help you in your Christian walk, your marriage, and your area of service. We encourage you to use these videos.

The Nominating Committee report was presented (See following page). MS&C to elect the nominees are presented.

The following Obituary Report was given:

We, your Committee on Obituaries, find that the following people have passed from this life: From First FWB Church of Chipley, Bro. Joe Lee Pippin, Sister Inez Skinner, and Sister Louise Pitts. From Liberty, Sister Mary Miller.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Etha Mae Owen  
Sharon Cooper  
Marie George

The following churches volunteered for the 1994 meetings:

January 14, 1994 - Piney Grove FWB Church (Fellowship Meeting)  
April 9, 1994 - Pleasant Hill (Business Meeting)  
July 8, 1994 - First Church of Chipley (Fellowship Meeting)  
October 8, 1994 - First Church of Panama City (Annual Meeting)

MS&C to adjourn.

The morning worship service opened with congregational singing and prayer by Bro. Archie Cook.

An offering of \$39.00 was taken. There were approximately 30-35 in attendance.

Rev. Jeff Skiles brought the morning message from I Thessalonians "The Model Walk of the Church Today"--walk in holiness, walk in harmony, walk in honesty, walk in hope, and walk in helpfulness.

The meeting dismissed with prayer. Lunch was served by the host church.

Beverly K. Hartzog  
Clerk



\*\* Nominations are in parentheses.

The associational officers are being elected for a two-year term.

## WEST FLORIDA LIBERTY ASSOCIATION

### OFFICERS AND BOARDS

#### OFFICERS

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

#### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Mr. Ed Sweigart . . . . .	1993	(Ed Sweigart - 1998)
Mr. Ross Pippin . . . . .	1994	
Rev. Frank Willis . . . . .	1995	
Mr. Aron Burch . . . . .	1996	
Mr. Jim Roney . . . . .	1997	

#### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Mr. Jim Roney . . . . .	1993	(Jim Roney - 1996)
Mr. Ralph Toole . . . . .	1994	
Mr. Archie Cook . . . . .	1995	

#### YOUTH CO-DIRECTORS

Rev. Jeff Skiles . . . . .	1994	
Mr. Sammy Hayes . . . . .	1995	
Rev. Mike Waddell . . . . .	1996	(Rev. Orville Whitacre - 1996)

#### CAMP BOARD

Mr. Aron Burch . . . . .	1993	(Aron Burch - 1995)
Mr. Sammy Hayes . . . . .	1994	

#### MISSION BOARD

Rev. Randy Hill . . . . .	1993	(Rev. Jeff Skiles - 1996)
Rev. Wayne Hartzog . . . . .	1994	
Mr. Ernest Owen . . . . .	1995	

#### ORDAINING COUNCIL

Rev. David Williford . . . . .	1993	(Rev. David Williford - 1996)
Mr. Thomas Porter . . . . .	1994	
Rev. Randy Hill . . . . .	1995	

#### STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Rev. David Williford . . . . .	(Rev. David Williford)
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#### COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Nominating Committee . . . . .	Aron Burch, Howard McAdams, Ed Sweigart (Exec. Committee)
Resolutions Committee . . . . .	Ernest Owen, Ross Pippin, Archie Cook (Exec. Committee)
Obituary Committee . . . . .	Etha Mae Owen, Sharon Cooper, Marie George (Same)
Education Committee/Library . . . . .	David Williford, Lavon Crawford, Gayla Whitehead (Rev. David Hidle)
Fellowship of Encouragement . . . . .	(Pam Taylor, Donna Williford, Rev. Randy Hill, Rev. David Hidle, Myra Henderson)



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 Committee (3 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 quarterly dues as recommended by the Executive Committee and approved by the voting body.

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 Committee - 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.

- 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.