

The
Wolverine Association
of
Free Will Baptists

1941

Proceedings of the
Organization

First F. W. B. Church,
Hazel Park, Michigan

and the

First Quarterly Meeting

Ecorse F. W. B. Church,
Ecorse, Michigan



Rev. Maurice W. Roach



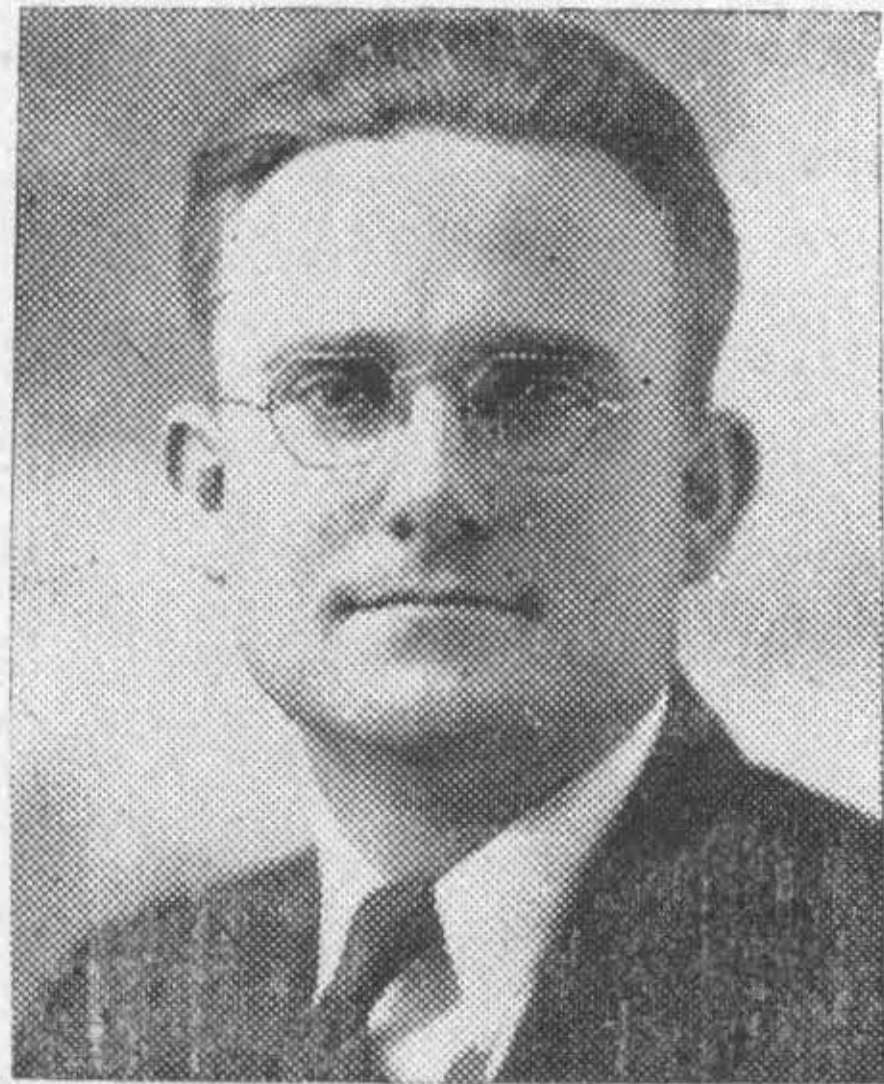
Rev. C. E. Riggs



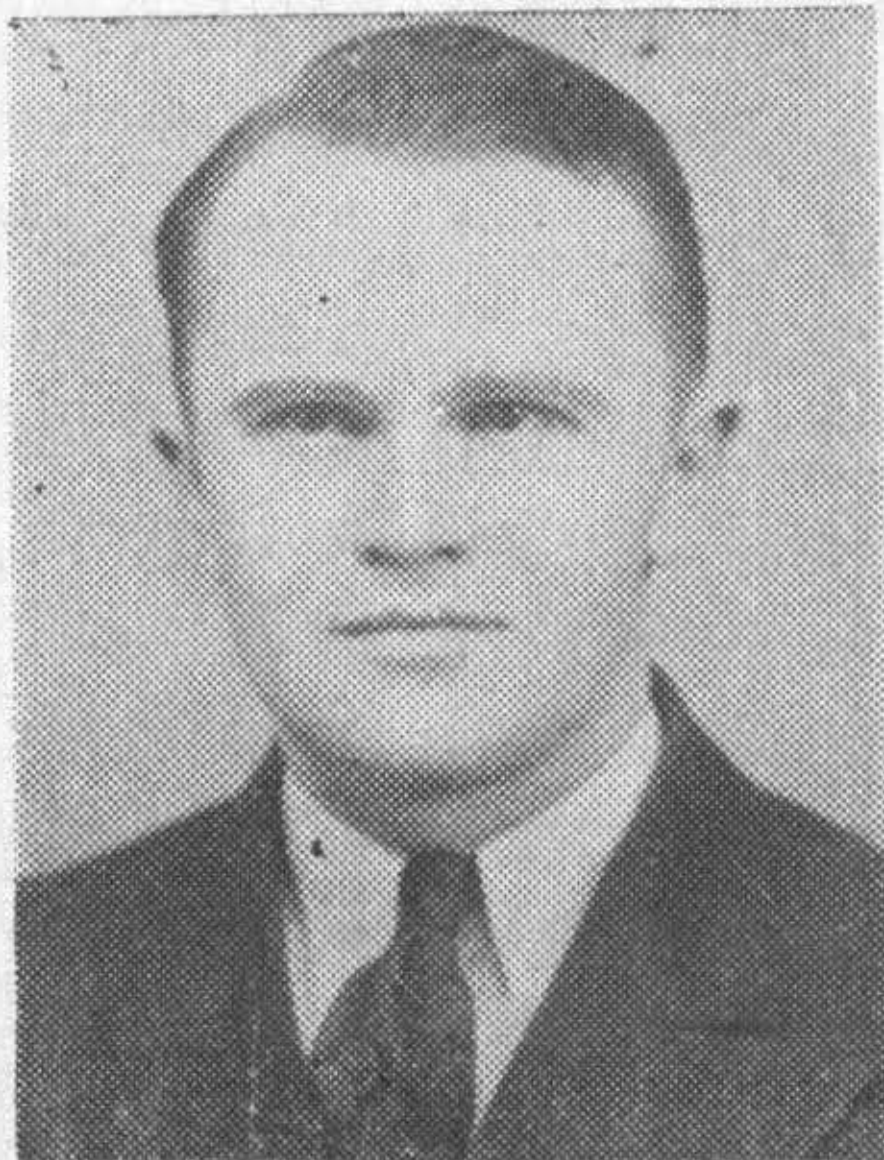
Rev. N. P. Gates



Rev. George Warren



Rev. Virgil Greenway



Rev. Raymond Riggs

PROCEEDINGS OF THE ORGANIZATION

A goodly number of ministers, deacons, messengers, brothers and sisters, members of Free Will Baptist denomination were called together at the First Free Will Baptist Church of Hazel Park, Michigan.

Singing led by the Rev. N. P. Gates.

Prayer by Rev. George P. Warren.

The first item of business was to proceed to select a temporary chairman and clerk, resulting in the selection of Rev. C. E. Riggs acting moderator and Rev. N. P. Gates clerk pro tem.

Next called for representatives from the various churches present, as follows:

First Free Will Baptist Church of Flint — Represented by Rev. George P. Warren, Sister George P. Warren, Rev. Maurice W. Roach, Sister Vera Roach, and Sister Maurie Davis.

Highland Park Church — Represented by Bro. Robert Rogers, Bro. Leaman Riggs, Bro. Vanriper, Bro. Wilson Simmons, Bro. Douglas Moore, and Bro. Tommy Daniels.

First Free Will Baptist Church of Hazel Park — Represented by Bro. John Roberson, and Bro. Estel Blalock, Bro. Otis Butcher, delegates; Sister Rosie Roberson, Sister Marshie Gates, and Sister Lottie Pierce, alternates.

Ecorse Free Will Baptist Church — Not having any selected representatives, the body selected Rev. N. P. Gates, pastor of said church, and Sister Virgia Gates to represent them.

Ministers Present — Rev. C. E. Riggs of Hazel Park, Michigan, Rev. N. P. Gates of Hazel Park, Michigan, Rev. Raymond Riggs of Highland Park, Michigan, Rev. George P. Warren of Flint, Michigan, Rev. Maurice W. Roach of Flint, Michigan.

Deacons Present — Brothers Wilson Simmons, Tommy Daniels, Douglas Moore, W. E. Gates, LaVan D. Pearce.

The following were appointed as Committee on Divine Service: Bro. Tom Daniels, Sister Vera Roach, and Bro. LaVan D. Pearce.

The Divine Service Committee reported the selection of Rev. Maurice W. Roach to bring the message of the hour. Bro. Roach read from Jer. 1:1-10, using the fifth

verse as a text "Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee: and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations". A splendid constructive message was appreciated by all present.

Services adjourned for refreshments to return at 1:30 in the afternoon.

AFTERNOON SESSION

Persuant to adjournment, the body was called together by singing led by Rev. Raymond Riggs.

Prayer by Rev. Henry Roberson.

Scripture reading by moderator from first Psalm.

Proceeded to the election of a moderator and clerk to serve for the ensuing year, resulting in the election of Rev. C. E. Riggs as moderator and Rev. N. P. Gates as clerk.

The organization now completed, the reception of the right hand of fellowship was extended with prayer of consecration led by Rev. W. A. Fowler and Rev. Henry Roberson guest ministers.

The question of a name for the association was discussed. After some deliberation, a suggestion of the Great Lakes Association was supported by five votes. The Wolverine Association was supported by twelve votes, resulting in the Wolverine being adopted.

A matter of adopting a constitution was taken up, resulting in the adopting of the constitution, with certain amendments, as of the Social Band Association of Arkansas. (See Constitution).

The matter of adopting rules of decorum was taken up, resulting in the adoption of those of Social Band Association of Arkansas. (See Rules of Decorum.)

The matter of quarterly meetings were discussed. A motion for the same was substained.

The matter of time for the setting of the annual association was discussed. A motion was carried to convene on Thursday night before the first Sunday in October.

Since Bro. C. E. Riggs had to absent himself he appointed Rev. Raymond Riggs to serve in his absence.

The matter of a Standing Presbytery was taken up, resulting in the selection of the following: Rev. C. E.

Riggs, Rev. N. P. Gates, Rev. George P. Warren, Rev. Raymond Riggs, Rev. Maurice W. Roach.

A motion was sustained to grant the setting of the first quarterly conference with the Escorse Church said meetings to begin on Thursday night before each fifth Sunday and continuing through Saturday night.

A motion was substained to grant the setting of the first annual association with the Highland Park Church.

A motion was supported to adopt the Articles of Faith as maintained by the Treatise of the National Association. (See Articles of Faith.)

A motion was supported to select a Standing Committee on Arrangement of Business to serve for the ensuing year. The following were selected: Rev. C. E. Riggs, Chairman, Bro. Tank Orr, Bro. Vint Kirk, Bro. LaVan Pearce and Sister Vera Roach.

Rev. Raymond Riggs selected to preach the introductory sermon at the first quarterly conference.

A nomination was in order in the selection of some one to preach the introductional sermon at the first annual association; resulted in the selection of Rev. C. E. Riggs.

The matter of printing minutes of this session was discussed and motion was sustained, supported by an offering of \$8.65 and the authority given the clerk for the printing of said minutes.

The next item of business was the matter of inauguration of a financial program; said question being deferred to the first quarterly conference.

The matter of having an evangelist was discussed, resulted in said question not being supported.

A motion was sustained to adjourn until the time and place of next annual association when convened with the Highland Park Church on Thursday evening of October 3rd through Sunday the 6th, 1942.

Closed by singing and prayer by Rev. Raymond Riggs.

FIRST QUARTERLY CONFERENCE

Minutes of the First Quarterly Conference of the Wolverine Association of Free Will Baptists when convened with the Ecorse Free Will Baptist Church, Ecorse, Michigan.

Came together by singing led by Rev. N. P. Gates.

Prayer by Bro. Wallace.

Services turned over to moderator, Rev. C. E. Riggs.

Scripture reading from 33rd Psalm.

The congregation enjoyed a few minutes of devotional services conducted by Bro. Otis Butcher.

Rev. Raymond Riggs delivered the introductional sermon, using as a text 1 Tim. 4:12, topic "Being an Example". He gave a general review of the history of Free Will Baptists of Michigan.

The service was dismissed by Otis Butcher.

FRIDAY MORNING SESSION

Called together at 10:00 o'clock by singing "When the Roll is Called up Yonder" led by Rev. McKinley Newsome. Prayer by Bro. Newsome.

Services continued by moderator with scripture reading from Ephesians 4.

Conference now being opened, moderator proceeded to regular business by appointing the Rev. Raymond Riggs, clerk pro tem.

Called for letters and representatives from the various churches:

First Free Will Baptist Church of Flint — Represented by Mrs. Maurie Davis, Sister Vera Roach.

First Free Will Baptist of Hazel Park — Represented by Sister Marshie Gates and Sister Lottie Pearce.

Highland Park Church — Represented by Brothers Robert Rodgers, Laurence Sitzer and Allen Wallace.

Ecorse Free Will Baptist Church — Represented by Mrs. N. P. Gates and Mrs. Howard.

The next item of business was the seating of delegates, ministers, messengers and deacons in conference, by moderator extending the right hand of fellowship. Consecration prayer was offered by Rev. Raymond Riggs.

The next order of business was the appointing of

a committee on Divine Service by the moderator. He appointed Bro. Bob Rodgers, Sister Marshie Gates, Sister Maurie Davis. The committee choose Rev. McKinley Newsome to bring the message of the hour.

Bro. Newsome used as a topic "What Is Your Life?" Text, James 4:14. A real spiritual feast was enjoyed.

Dismissed by Bro. Bob Rodgers and Rev. Raymond Riggs.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

Opened by singing "We Shall Rise" led by Rev. Newsome. Prayer by Sister Lottie Pearce.

Scripture reading, Hebrews 2:1-10.

Since the standing committee on Arrangement of Business were not present, the following were appointed to serve for this session: Bro. Homer Harris, Sister N. P. Gates, Sister Maurie Davis, Sister Lottie Pearce, and Bro. Douglas Moore

The committee on divine service reported the selection of Rev. George P. Warren of Flint to fill the stand for the evening service; Rev. N. P. Gates as alternate.

A motion was carried that the Rules of Decorium be read at each days session.

A motion was carried to adjourn conference until 10:00 o'clock Saturday morning.

Dismissed by Bro. Douglas Moore.

FRIDAY EVENING SERVICE

Opened by singing led by Rev. N. P. Gates.

Prayer by Bro. Ambros Hagen.

The congregation was favored with several numbers by a quartet composed of Rev. Raymond Riggs, Bro. Lehman Riggs, Graydon Gates, and Lowell W. Gates.

At this time a splendid devotional service was engaged in led by Bro. Damron, a visiting brother.

Rev. Warren being present the stand was filled as appointed. He used as a text Prov. 21:4, "I have called but you have refused, I have stretched out my hand and no man regardeth it". A splendid message was enjoyed by all present.

SATURDAY MORNING SESSION

Called together by singing led by Rev. N. P. Gates.
Prayer by Bro. LaVan Pearce.

Scripture reading by the moderator reading Psalm 1.

Conference now opened the moderator called for the reading of the minutes of the previous session, after which time proceeded to regular business.

The first item of business was to rescind the previous appointment of the Rev. C. E. Riggs as chairman of Standing Committee on Arrangement of Business, since the code of Ethics does not permit the moderator to occupy such appointment. Therefore a nomination was in order, resulting in the moderator appointing Rev. Raymond Riggs as chairman of said committee.

The clerk being present with minutes of the organizing of the Association, it was agreed to have the same read.

The committee on Arrangement of Business submitted resolution number 1, resolving that a financial program be inaugurated. The said matter not being definite or clearly understood whether same would interpret the "Will" of item tabled from previous conference the same was deferred to the discretion of the churches, since the matter would not suffice. (See Res. Nos. 1 and 5.)

The next item was that of seating of delayed delegates, ministers and messengers by the right hand of fellowship being extended by the moderator.

A motion was carried to adjourn for morning message, that being supplied by the appointment of Rev. James Grisham of Flint, using as a text. Heb. 5:9, "And being made perfect he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him". A splendid inspirational message was enjoyed by all present.

Dismissed by Sister Marshie Gates.

Adjourned for refreshments.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

Called together by singing led by Rev. N. P. Gates.
Prayer by Bro. Wallace.

Resolution No. 2 was taken up and disposed of, resulting in the resolution being adopted. (See Resolutions)

The next item of business was the consideration of

Resolution No. 3, resulting in the same being adopted. (See Resolutions.)

Next was the consideration of Resolution No. 4. This being in line with our National Treatise (not being interpreted to infer in the aggregate) the same was adopted. (See Resolutions.)

The next item was the consideration of unfinished business tabled from last session, involving the matter of a general financial program. After some deliberations a formal resolution (No. 5) was adopted. (See Resolutions.)

The next item of business was that of selecting a treasurer for the care of associational funds, which resulted in the selection of Bro. Homer Harris, treasurer.

The next item was that of a motion being supported to include the minutes of this quarterly conference in the printed volume of the recent annual association.

The next item was the setting of the next quarterly conference, convening on Thursday evening before the fifth Sunday in March, 1942, which resulted in the selection of the First Free Will Baptist Church of Flint.

Rev. N. P. Gates selected to fill the stand at next quarterly conference.

A motion was sustained to appropriate the necessary funds for printing of minutes.

The next item was the matter of granting license to Bro. V. S. Versnick to the ministry of the gospel, to which a motion was sustained.

Next was the ordaining of Bro. James Grisham to the full ministry of the gospel. After due consideration by the presbytery, finding him to be strictly orthodox worthy and honorable, the request was granted by the laying on of hands and prayer of consecration, followed by singing and the right hand of fellowship bidding him God's speed and the blessings of our heavenly Father upon him wherever he may be called.

Dismissed by Bro. Butcher.

SATURDAY EVENING SERVICE

Came together by singing led by Rev. Raymond Riggs. Prayer by Bro. Bob Davis of Flint.

The first order of business was that of granting the

eleven o'clock service on Saturday of each quarterly conference to the young people of the churches. A motion was carried and a committee appointed for the arrangement of said services by selecting one member from their respective churches as follows: Highland Park Church, Bro. Lehman Riggs; First Church of Flint, Sister Maurie Davis; First Church of Hazel Park, Sister Eilene (Riggs) Dalton; Ecorse Church, Bro. Bill Newsom.

The examining presbytery took up the matter of ordaining the following as deacons for their respective church: Ecorse Church, Bro. Vint Kirk; Highland Park Church, Bro. Tank Orr; by the laying on of hands and prayer of consecration by the presbytery.

The services were interspersed at intervals with several special numbers by the Newsom family and the Free Will Gospel Quartet from the Highland Park Church.

The stand was filled by Rev. N. P. Gates, being previously appointed to bring the message of the hour; Scripture reading from Ezek. 37:1-14, using as a text Job 14:14, "If a man die, shall he live again"; context John 11:25, "I am the resurrection and the life, he that believeth in me though he were dead yet shall he live."

Adjourned until time and place of the next regular quarterly conference when convened with the First Free Will Baptist Church of Flint on Thursday evening before the fifth Sunday in March, 1942.

Dismissed by Bro. Tank Orr.

RESOLUTIONS

No. 1—Be it Resolved, That a financial program be inaugurated. As has been previously stated, this matter was deferred, however a definite conclusion is subsequently implied in Resolution No. 5.

No. 2—Resolved, That the associational clerk should be paid for labor and mailing expenses the sum of \$25.00 per year.

No. 3—Resolved, That the Young People's Auxiliary shall have charge of the eleven o'clock services on Saturdays of each quarterly meeting.

No. 4—Be it Resolved, That each pastor shall hold membership in the bounds of this association.

No. 5 — Be it Resolved, That each church of this association shall set aside the tenth of its income remitted at each quarterly conference, thereby creating a General Associational Fund for Denominational Enterprises, its benevolent needs and the good of our churches and Christianity in general.

MINISTERS' ENROLLMENT

N. P. Gates Lock Box 41, Hazel Park, Michigan
C. E. Riggs 944 E. Harry Street, Hazel Park, Michigan
Maurice W. Roach 1401 Allen Street, Flint, Michigan
James Grisham Flint, Michigan
Raymond Riggs 217 Gerald Ave., Highland Park, Michigan
Virgil Greenway 2080 Shoemaker, Flint, Michigan
George P. Warren 828 Atherton Road, Flint, Michigan

DEACONS' ENROLLMENT

Hazel Park Church — W. E. Gates, LaVan Pearce, James F. Sandafer, Paul E. Carrier, Chas. E. Miller.
Highland Park Church — Wilson Simmons, Douglas Moore, Bro. Carlisle, Tank Orr, Tom Daniels.
Ecorse Church — Vint Kirk.
First Church of Flint —

ARTICLES OF FAITH

1. GOD. We believe in one true and living, Triune God; composed of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, equal in divine Essence, Purpose, Power and Glory.—St. John 1:1; 1 Cor. 8:6; St. John 10:30.

2. CHRIST. We believe that Jesus Christ is the divine Son of God. Was with the Father and the Holy Spirit at the time of the Creation, left the Courts of Heaven and came to this earth. Took upon Himself the form of humanity, sin excepted, by being born of the Virgin Mary, manifested His power, was crucified, placed in Joseph's tomb, rose from the dead the third day, completed the great plan of salvation, walked and talked with His disciples, publicly ascended up to Heaven, and that He will descend again to gather His jewels home.—Isaiah 9:6; St. John 1:14; Luke 1:26-28; Matt. 14:13-21; Mark 16:9-19; Luke 24:50:53; Acts 1:9-12; Mark 15:22-47.

3. HOLY SPIRIT. We believe that the Holy Spirit has visited true believers in all ages, and especially since the ascension of the SON back to the Father, and His coming on the day of Pentecost. Has taken up His office work among all nations of

people, as a Divine Reprover, Comforter and Guide.—Judges 6:34; 11:29; St. John 16:8-14; Isaiah 63:10-12; Ephesians 4:30; Acts 8:17-20; Ezek. 36:27; Joel 2:28.

4. **THE BIBLE.** We believe the Bible, which is composed of the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, was given by Inspiration of God, is our way-bill from earth to heaven, and the only infallible rule of faith and practice.—2 Peter 1:19-21; 2 Tim. 3:14-17; Daniel 10:21; Acts 1:16-17; Matt. 21:42.

5. **THE FALL OF MAN.** We believe that GOD created man good, gave him a just law by which he should be governed; with promise of reward for faithfulness and with penalties of punishment for disobedience. Gave man power of free moral agency to choose the right and reject the wrong. But our first parents heeded the voice of the great enemy of souls, voluntarily transgressed the law of GOD, fell, with their posterity, under the just penalty of the same, and were unable of their own power to extricate or save themselves from the great dilemma into which they had fallen. God gave them the hope of salvation through the coming CHRIST.—Gen. 1:27; 2:16-17; Psalms 51:5, Gen. 3; Gen. 6:5; Rom. 5:12-19; John 3:6; Eph. 2:3.

6. **REDEMPTION, SALVATION, ADOPTION.** We believe that Jesus Christ by His birth, death, burial, resurrection and ascension paid the purchase price for the redemption of the whole human race, arranged a pardon for all who come upon Gospel terms; and a law of adoption into the Kingdom of Heaven, and an eternal inheritance into the glorified Kingdom above.—Heb. 9:12; Gal. 3:13; 4:4-5; Titus 2:14; Heb. 1:4; St. John 3:16; Isaiah 15:22.

7. **CONDITIONS OF SALVATION.** We believe that all persons, dying in infancy and all idiots are saved by the atoning merits of the Son of God without any act on their part; that persons coming to the years of accountability, transgressing the law of God, must upon their part, exercise faith in Jesus Christ through repentance toward God, at the completion of which pardon takes place in the mind of the Father and by the Holy Spirit they pass through the ordeal of regeneration, are washed in the blood of the Lamb and are planted in the Kingdom of Christ.—John 3rd chapter; Matt. 19:13-22; I Cor. 7:10; Luke 18:16-17; St. John 4:11-16; Psalms 98:3.

8. **SALVATION FREE.** We believe that God desires the salvation of all; Christ died for all; the Gospel invites all; the Holy Spirit strives with all; and whosoever will may come and be saved upon the terms of the Gospel.—1 Peter 1:9-25; 2:9-25; Revelation 22:17.

9. **BAPTISM.** We believe that Christian baptism is the immersion of believers in water, in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, in which are represented the burial and resurrection of Christ; also represents our death to sin, and only those who have come under the presbytery of the elders are qualified to administer the same.—Matt. 3:14-16; 3:5-6; 1 Peter 3:21; St. John 3:23; Acts 10:47; Matt. 28:19.

10. **COMMUNION AND FEET WASHING.** We believe that the Lord's Supper and the washing of the saints' feet are ordinances of the Gospel of Christ; the Lord's Supper was instituted by our Savior to commemorate His broken body and shed blood for the sins of the world, and to show our remembrance of Him till He comes. All Christians have a right to the Lord's Supper and should be invited; "Let a man examine himself and so let him eat."

The washing of feet was instituted by our Lord at the same time that the Supper was instituted as an act of humility to show our love for each other, and both ordinances should be perpetuated by all Christians until His second coming.—Luke 22:19-20; 1 Cor. 11:20-29; St. John 13:1-17; Matt. 26:26-29.

11. **THE SABBATH.** We believe that the Christian Sabbath should be observed as a day of rest and for the worship of God; that we should abstain from all sinful amusements and secular employments, works of mercy and piety excepted.—Exodus 20:11; 31:12-18; Deut. 5:12-15; Ezek. 20:12; Matt. 28:1; Luke 23:56; Acts 13:42-48; Mark 2:27.

12. **CALL TO THE MINISTRY.** We believe in a divine call of the ministry; that God in His goodness and power of grace, impresses His ministers with the burden of lost souls, to the extent that the call becomes irresistible with personal contentment; that when they yield to the call and exercise the native gifts according to the Scriptures, with a full reliance upon Him, He accompanies them in the person of the Holy Spirit to guide them in the way of truth and to bless their labors according to His purpose.—Jonah 1:1; Jer. 1:5; Mark 3:14; Acts 1:22-26; Matt. 28:19.

13. **THE INVISIBLE CHURCH.** We believe that the Invisible or Spiritual Church is the redeemed in the aggregate, is the family of God, is composed of all true Christians of every congregation from righteous Abel to the restitution of all things, from every kindred, nation, tongue and people.—Eph. 3:16-21; Heb. 12:22-23; 1 Pet. 2:5; Eph. 2:20-22; Acts 2:47; Matt. 16:18.

14. **THE VISIBLE CHURCH.** We believe that a visible church of Christ is a congregation of faithful men and women, having obtained fellowship with the Lord and with each other, agreeing to keep up a good discipline and doctrine according to the rules of the Gospel.—2 Thess. 1:1; Acts 16:5; 3 John 1:10; Matt. 18:17; Acts 20:28; Revelation 1:4-20.

15. **PERSEVERANCE.** We believe that all true believers in Christ should persevere in divine grace, and in the knowledge of the truth, and that God's grace is sufficient to help them to overcome all the obstacles of life, and that all the combined forces of the great enemy of souls on earth and in hell (or in his eternal abode) are not able to pluck them from His hand so long as they walk in the path of duty; but those who sidestep and wilfully refuse or neglect to perform their duty, they would backslide if persistently continued, would be eternally

lost.—2 Pet. 1:12; 2 Cor 9:10; 2 Peter 1:4-8; 2 Peter 2:2; Rom. 8:35-39; Apostasy: 2 Peter 1:8-9; I Cor. 10:1-13; Heb. 12:15-17; 1 John 5:16; Heb. 6:1-6; 1 Tim. 4:1-2; Heb. 3:12; St. John 15:1-7; Matt. 12:31-32.

16. CHRIST THE HEAD OF THE CHURCH. We believe that Christ is the Head of the Church, and that the government of the local church is with the body.—Col. 1:18-19; Matt. 16:18; Heb. 12:23; Matt. 21:42; Eph. 1:22; Acts 16:4-5.

17. SANCTIFICATION. Sanctification is a work of God's grace, by which the soul is cleansed from all sin and wholly consecrated to Christ. It takes place in regeneration, and the Christian can and should abide in this state to the end of life, constantly growing in the grace and the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.—I Cor. 6:11; 2 Thess. 2:13; Heb. 12:14; Phil. 3:21; 2 Thess. 5:19-23; St. John 17:17-19; 2 Tim. 2:20-21.

18. THE RESURRECTION. We believe in the resurrection of the dead, both of the righteous and the wicked. When the resurrection shall take place, the soul and body shall be united, the righteous shall be received into everlasting happiness to reign with God for ever; but the wicked shall go away into everlasting punishment.—Matt. 28:6; John 5:28-29; I Cor. 15:51-58.

19. THE SOUL. The soul is endless, hence does not die with the body, but immediately after death enters into a conscious state of happiness or misery, according to the spiritual character here possessed.—Phil. 1:23; Luke 23:43; Rev. 6:9; Luke 16:19-25; Matt. 10:28.

20. JUDGEMENT. We believe that there will be a general universal judgment, when all men shall be judged according to their works, whether they be good or bad, and that immediately thereafter the wicked shall enter into everlasting punishment, and the righteous into eternal happiness.—2 Thess. 1:4-9; Rev. 14:9-13; Luke 16:23; Rev. 21:8; 2 Cor. 5:10; Matt. 12:36-37; Rev. 20:12-13; Acts 17:31.

CONSTITUTION

1. This Association, when properly organized, shall consist of a moderator and a clerk, who shall be chosen by the suffrage of the members present. The duty of the moderator shall be to keep the Association in order, state questions fairly and take the vote thereon; to have the liberty of speech as other members, providing his seat to be filled; to have no vote unless the Association be equally divided, in which case he shall have the deciding vote. The duty of the clerk shall be to keep a fair record of the proceedings of the Association.

2. The Association shall be composed of ordained ministers, deacons and licentiates, together with the messengers duly chosen

by the several churches in our union and sent to represent them in this association, said messengers being members of some church within this association, whom the members judge best qualified for the purpose, who, on producing letters certifying to their appointment, shall be entitled to seats.

3. In the letters from the several churches shall be expressed their respective number of members in fellowship, and the number received, dismissed, excluded or died since the last sitting of the association, and day of church meeting.

4. No query shall be received by the Association from any church unless it has acted on in said church and cannot be settled, in which case the Association shall take up same and act upon it.

5. Every church in the Association shall be entitled to a representation of messengers not exceeding three.

6. Every motion made and seconded shall be acted upon unless withdrawn by the mover.

7. The Association shall not have power to lord it over God's heritage so as to infringe on any of the internal rights of the churches; nevertheless, we agree that the churches composing the association shall stand in the same relationship to each other in this association that individuals do to each other in the churches; that is to say, if a church trespass against a sister church the church injured shall try to reclaim them by Gospel steps; if they cannot be reclaimed, they shall be dropped by our union.

8. We agree to do all business by a majority of all the members present.

9. Any church may be admitted into this association by letter and messengers. If upon examination it is found to be orthodox and orderly, such admission shall be manifested by the moderator giving the right hand of fellowship to the messengers thereof.

10. This Association shall have power to sit as an advisory council, to give churches all necessary advice in matters of difficulty; to inquire into the cause why churches neglect to represent themselves in this association; to appoint any members, by and with his or her consent to transact any business they may deem necessary; to invite brethren in the ministry to a seat with the association; to adjourn the association at any time and place that may be thought necessary; to exclude from his seat any member who does not conform to the Rules of Decorum, and shall report his or their conduct to the churches from which he or they were messengers.

11. The Association possesses appellate jurisdiction in all case of difficulty that may arise in the churches.

12. The Lord's Supper and Feet Washing shall be administered at each annual session of the Association.

13. Each annual association shall be held on Thursday evening through Sunday; first Sunday in October.

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, who shall arise 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 wise 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 laugh or whisper in time of public speech.

7. Members shall address each other by the appellation of brother or brethren, and sisters.

8. No member of this Association shall absent himself when the association is sitting in conference without leave of the moderator.

9. The names of the members of this association shall be enrolled and called over as often as the association thinks is necessary.

10. No member shall speak longer than fifteen minutes at any one time without leave of the moderator.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Call to order by moderator.

2. Call for letters from churches.

3. Election of moderator and clerk.

4. Read Rules of Decorum.

5. Appointment of Committees: Divine Service, Finance, Obituary, Arrangement of Business.

6. Call for corresponding letters.

7. Call for petitionary letters.

8. Unfinished business.

9. New business.

A Letter Form To Be Used As A Guide For Local Church And District Association

To the Association of Free Will Baptists:
We, the Church of Free Will Baptists
met on, 19...., and selected
..... to
represent us in your honorable body which convenes with
..... Church, on, 19...
Bidding you God's speed in all your labor for the advancement
of the cause of Christ and His kingdom. Our church is com-
posed of deacons, ministers; membership,
males, females, total Members re-
ceived during the year: baptism, recommendation,
by letter The churches' loss in membership: dismissed
by letter, excluded, died Name and
address of ministers:
Name of deacons:
Sunday School, yes, no, kind of literature used
....., condition, average attendance
total membership League: yes, no, president
....., Secretary
total membership Families taking church paper.....
Pastor, sermons preached
salary \$..... Own church building, value of
church property \$..... when organized
by who

Moderator,

Clerk,

STATISTICAL TABLE

CHURCH	PASTOR	CLERK	Organized with	Received into Fellowship	Dismissed by letter	Excluded	Deaths	Number of Ministers	Sunday School	F. W. B. League	Members
First Church of Hazel Park	C. E. Riggs	LaVan Pearce, Hazel Park	8	57	1	0	0	3	x	x	64
Highland Park Church	Raymond Riggs	V. S. Versnick, Detroit	25	115	4	1	1	1	x	x	119
Ecorse Church	N. P. Gates	Wm. Newsom, Melvindale	6	5	2	0	0	1	x	x	9
First Church of Flint	Maurice W. Roach	Maurie Davis, Flint	12	4	0	0	0	4	x	0	16
Total			208								

FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH COVENANT

Having given ourselves to God by faith in 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 the 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 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, promote the success of the church and of the Gospel.

We will everywhere hold Christian principle 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.

We agree faithfully to discharge our obligations in reference to the 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 the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." We will not forget 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.

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 souls, and the conversion of the world. And may the God of peace sanctify us wholly, and preserve us blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.