

THE  
*Wolverine Association*  
of  
FREE WILL BAPTIST

1943  
Proceedings of the  
SECOND ANNUAL SESSION

when  
Convened With

THE FREE WILL BAPTIST TEMPLE  
DETROIT, MICHIGAN

MINUTES  
of the  
SECOND ANNUAL SESSION  
of the  
WOLVERINE ASSOCIATION  
of  
FREE WILL BAPTIST

Held With  
THE FREE WILL BAPTIST TEMPLE  
John R. at Philadelphia St.  
DETROIT, MICHIGAN

On September 2-4, 1943

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... OFFICERS ...

Moderator.....Rev. C. E. Riggs  
Ass't Moderator.....Rev. Virgil Greenway  
Clerk and Treasurer.....Rev. V. S. Versnick  
Ass't Clerk and Treasurer.....Rev. Maurice W. Roach  
Evangelist.....Rev. N. P. Gates

The next annual session will convene with the First Free  
Will Baptist Church of Hazel Park, Michigan.  
Beginning on Thursday evening August 31st,  
and continuing through September 2nd,  
1944.

The Introductory sermon by Rev. Dan Kronk.

**MINUTES of  
THE SECOND ANNUAL SETTING OF THE WOLVERINE  
ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTIST**

**On September 2, 3, 4, 1943**

**When convened with the Free Will Baptist Temple,  
John R. at Philadelphia Sts., Detroit, Mich.**

**THURSDAY EVENING SERVICES**

Came together by singing, directed by Rev. N. P. Gates, prayer by Rev. Killian, after which the Mod. Rev. C. E. Riggs, read for opening scripture II Chap. Philippians.

The Session now being duly opened, the Introductory sermon was delivered by Rev. Maurice W. Roach, using for subject II Chap. Nei. prayer by Rev. Everett L. Hall, Text "Why are thy countenance sad?" Nei. 2:2. After a good time enjoyed by all present services were dismissed by Rev. Dan Kronk.

**FRIDAY MORNING SESSION**

Came together by singing, directed by Rev. N. P. Gates, followed by Mod. reading 23rd Psalm, prayer by Rev. Geo. P. Warren, after which the Mod. read the "Rules of Decorium".

First item: Called for letters and representatives from the various churches: The following answered and their delegates were seated in conference:—Hazel Park, Highland Park, East Side and First Church of Flint.

Next Item: was the matter of electing a Moderator and Clerk for the ensuing year, resulted in retaining present incumbants, Rev. C. E. Riggs, Mod. Rev. N. P. Gates, Clerk; assisted by Rev. Virgil Greenway, and Rev. V. S. Versnick, respectively. Rev. V. S. Versnick, was also retained as Treasurer.

Next Item: The Mod. proceeded in the appointing of the several committees, as follows:—

ON DIVINE SERVICES, Sisters Margurite Van Riper, Anna Newsome, and Bro. E. J. Marine.

ON OBITUARY, Rev. McKinley Newsome, Sisters Thelma Bagwell, and Loise Blalock.

ON FINANCE, Rev. Maurice W. Roach, Rev. Virgil Greenway, and Bro. Max Brown.

Next Item: Called for Petitionary letters, None; Called for Corresponding letters, None; at this interval came to an adjournment until the eleven o'clock hour of worship, dismissed by Rev. Roy Wood, of the Flint Church.

**FRIDAY MORNING SERVICES**

Came together by signing directed by Rev. C. E. Riggs, praper by . . . . .

After which time the Rev. Geo. P. Warren, brought the message of the hour, using for subject the VI Ch. Isa., the message was enjoyed by all present. Dismissed by Bro. LaVan D. Pearce.

**FRIDAY AFTERNOON SESSION**

Came together by singing directed by the Moderator, prayer by Rev. Harvey Garrison, followed by the reading of the 24th Psalm. The Mod. then read the "Rules of Decorium".

Next Item:—Called for tardy letters, received One, The Free Will Baptist Temple, and delegates seated in conference. Called for corresponding letters, received none.

Next item:—Called for unfinished business, None; Called for new business, there being none to command our attention

at this time, a short devotional service was engaged in conducted by Bro. La Van Pearce. At this conclusion called for a report from Business Committee, at which time Res. No. 1 was submitted for consideration, said resolution was adopted. See Res.

Res. No. 2. was also submitted, and after due consideration was adopted. See Res.

Next Item:—Called for report of Finance Committee. Report was received and committee was discharged. See Report. At this interval, an open discussion of general interest was engaged in, this being followed by a partial report from the treasurer.

Next Item:—Nominations were in order for a standing committee on arrangement of business, resulted in the selection of the following;—Rev. McKinley Newsome, Rev. V. S. Versnick, Rev. Raymond Riggs, Bro. Cecil D. Vire and Bro. Max Brown.

There being no other business at this interval, the setting of the next Annual Conference was given consideration, by reason that the First Church of Hazel Park, having petitioned for it the same was granted; As was also the setting of the next Quarterly Conference, Oct. 28-30, 1943. Rev. Dan Cronk, was selected to preach the Introductory sermon at the Annual setting, as was the Rev. Virgil Greenway, at the Quarterly Conference. A motion was sustained to adjourn until Nine o'clock session Saturday morning. Dismissed by Bro. Max Brown.

#### FRIDAY EVENING SERVICES

Came together by singing directed by Rev. C. E. Riggs, and Rev. N. P. Gates, prayer by Rev. McKinley Newsome, followed by special numbers by the Newsome Quartet, Gates Quartet and the Free Will Gospel Quartet. The message of the hour was delivered by Rev. Raymond Riggs, using for subject "The Two Ways", Matt. 7:13, 14. The Holy Spirit seemed to stamp his approval upon the service, by reason of all feeling that they were indeed glad to have had a part in the service. Dismissed by Rev. Melvin Bingham, of Tulsa, Okla.

#### SATURDAY MORNING SESSION

Came together by singing directed by the Moderator, followed with the reading of the 100 Psalm, prayer by Rev. Virgil Greenway, the "Rules of Decorum" were read after which proceeded to regular business. First Item:—Was receiving Treasurers report, see Report.

At this interval, by the presence of the Rev. Melvin Bingham, of Tulsa, Okla., it was agreed to receive him as corresponding delegate from the First Mission Association of Oklahoma. A brief verbal report was gladly received.

At this time, the hour having arrived for the Young Peoples Program, conference was adjourned until 1:30 in the afternoon. Dismissed by Bro. E. J. Marine.

#### YOUNG PEOPLES PROGRAM

After singing, the services were presided over by Bro. Carson Whittaker, who in turn introduced the following Churches:—HAKEL PARK, directed by Miss Magdaline Riggs; HIGHLAND PARK, directed by Anna Bell Staten; ECORSE CHURCH, directed by Francis McCage; FREE WILL BAPTIST TEMPLE, directed by Miss Dovie Steel, among the



speakers deserving special mention are as follows:—Miss Lady Ruth Marine, Rev. Dan Kronk, Vada Lue Maxwell. Kenneth Apple, and the Newsome Quartet. This service was graced, in a special way by the witnessing of the Holy Spirit, in placing his approval upon the same.

### SATURDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

Came together by singing directed by Rev. N. P. Gates, the Mod. then read the 93rd Psalm, prayer by Bro. Pete Pearce. After the reading of the "Rules of Decorium", the business committee submitted the following resolutions:—3, 4, 5, 6, 7. After due consideration the same was adopted. See Resolutions.

Next Item: By reason of re-electing Rev. N. P. Gates as Evangelist, and to relieve him of an overburden, that of the clerkship, it was thought best to rescind his election as Clerk, and to elect in his stead the Rev. V. S. Versnick, to serve for the ensuing year, assisted by the Rev. Maurice W. Roach.

Next Item:—Was the matter of receiving Written Reports of Ministers, see Reports.

The Association was also glad to receive an "Unsolicited verbal report of each Minister, by members of their respective churches; It was also noted, with pleasure, that, in the many reports thus given, there was none occasion of grievances reported.

A worthy recommendation was also received, as given by members of the various churches, concerning the members of their respective Deacon Boards.

Next Item:—Was that, by reason of the removal of the Rev. V. S. Versnick, from the Business Committee to serve as Clerk, it became necessary to supply another to serve in his stead, which resulted in the selection of Sis. Vera Roach, returning to the board for another year.

This bringing to a close matters claiming our attention, a motion was sustained to adjourn this session until the time and place of the next Annual setting of the Association, when convening with the First Free Will Baptist Church, Hazel Park, Mich., on Thursday evening August 31, through September 2nd, 1944. Dismissed by Sis. Lottie Pearce.

### SATURDAY EVENING SERVICES

Came together by singing directed by Rev. N. P. Gates, prayer by Rev. Noel Greenway. Special numbers were rendered by the Free Will Gospel Trio, the Courville Free Will Baptist Duet, and a called together quartet from the Free Will Baptist Church of Hazel Park, comprising Bro. W. E. Gates and wife, Bro. Otis Butcher, and Bro. LaVan D. Pearce. After which, the closing message of this conference was delivered by Rev. Melvin Bingham, of Tulsa, Okla., using for Text, "And the Spirit of the Lord moved upon the face of the waters". Gen. 1:2b. The Holy Spirit seemed to bear witness to the message in a great way, this being followed by about sixty souls partaking of the "Emblems of the broken body and the shed blood of the Lord Jesus Christ", and the washing of each others feet; according to Jesus' own words, "Ye call me Master and Lord: and ye say well; for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet: ye also ought to wash each other's feet." John 13:13,14. Dismissed by Rev.

Everett L. Hall, "And they sang an Hymn and went out".

Rev. C. E. Riggs, Moderator

Rev. V. S. Versnick, Clerk.

## WOLVERINE ASSOCIATION

### RESOLUTIONS.

#### Res. No. 1

Be it recommended that the Presbytry of this Association shall elect its Chairman and Secretary at each Annual setting of Conference; and Be it further recommended, that said Presbytry hold at least, Two meetings per Annum in addition to the regular setting of the Conference.

#### Res. No. 2

Be it Resolved, that this Association shall pay, in the sum of \$25.00 per quarter to each student from our midst, attending our Bible College in Nashville, Tenn.

#### Res. No. 3.

Be it Resolved, that this Association shall pay an additional sum of \$25.00 each, to its Moderator and Clerk, making a total of \$50.00 each for this year ending; and a like sum, to be paid at each Annual setting.

#### Res. No. 4.

We Recommend that a Ministerial Council be inaugurated for the purpose of Encouraging, Supporting and Maintaining a higher standard of "True Discipline" in our staff of Ministers, as pertaining to their Character, Qualifications, Honorary Membership and Soundness in Doctrine: That each Minister is urged to attend or give a written report. Said Council presided over by the Associational Moderator.

#### Res. No. 5.

We Recommend, That Rev. N. P. Gates, at his discretion, be relieved of his duties as Clerk of the XXX Association; and that he be retained as Associational Evangelist for the ensuing year, at a salary of \$125.00 per quarter.

#### Res. No. 6.

Be it Resolved, That the Moderator, and Evangelist shall pay a visit, for Services with each church of this Association, Once a year.

#### Res. No. 7.

Resolved, that we extend our heartfelt thanks to the Free Will Baptist Temple, Its Pastor, the entire membership and friends of the community for their gracious hospitality, their splendid fellowship and entertainment shown us during the setting of this Association.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

We, your committee on Obituary, desire to make the following report, that our kind heavenly Father in his divine providence has seen fit to take from our midst the following precious loved ones:

ECORSE CHURCH: Infant son of Bro. and Sis. Burris, FREE WILL BAPTIST TEMPLE; -James Sherman Roberson, age 1 yr. 7 mths; beloved grandson of Bro. and Sis. John Roberson. Vincent Valerie, 73 yrs. aged father of Sis. Ethil Vire. HIGHLAND PARK; Sis. Betty Triplet, 72 yrs., aged mother of Sis. Dephine Martin, friends of the Church. Linda Carol Blalock, age 3 yrs. 4 mths. beloved daughter of Bro. and Sis. Fred Blalock. And Bro. Everett Gamble, age 34 yrs., beloved husband of Sis. Margurite Gamble. We pray God's

blessings to attend their families in their bereavement.

COMMITTEE:—

Sis. Thelma Bagwell,

Sis. Loise Blalock,

Rev. McKinley Newsome.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

We, your Committee on Finance, beg to make the following report. The amounts shown are for quarter ending Saturday, September 4th, 1943, representing "Tithes and Offerings" as follows:

First Church of Flint.....	\$ 43.32
Ecorse Church .....	15.00
East Side Church.....	43.39
Highland Park Church.....	188.00
Free Will Baptist Temple.....	67.50
First Free Will Baptist—Offering.....	50.00
Total .....	\$407.21

SUB-COMMITTEE:—

Rev. Maurice W. Roach,

Rev. Virgil Greenway,

Bro. Max Brown.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Receipts

Amount brought forward, 9/2/1942.....	\$335.09
Ecorse Church .....	65.50
East Side Church.....	58.05
First Church of Flint.....	212.69
Free Will Baptist Temple.....	213.44
First Church of Hazel Park.....	221.35
Highland Park Church.....	930.13
Special Offerings .....	70.74
Total .....	\$2,106.99

Disbursements

To National Association.....	\$234.69
Delegate to National Association.....	50.00
Local Evangelist.....	400.00
Salary, Moderator .....	25.00
Salary, Clerk .....	25.00
Bible Institute .....	100.00
Foreign Missions.....	521.87
To Student Body.....	17.69
Clerical Expense (Bank) .....	24.30
Balance on Hand 9/2/1943.....	708.44
Total .....	\$2,106.99

Rev. V. S. Versnick, Treasurer

MINISTERIAL REPORTS

Rev. Raymond Riggs:

Sermons preached, (as Pastor) 79, Members received 17;

Amount received as Salary.....\$1,952.05

Officiated at 11 Weddings, amount received \$62.00; Preached 3 Funerals, amount received .....

35.00

Revival with Gen. Baptist, 12 Sermons, amount received \$85.00; Revival with Cach Hall Church in Arkansas 13 Sermons, amount received \$120.15; Revival with Alice Brooks Church Arkansas, 13 Sermons, amount received \$55.15; Total number Sermons 117, Total number Conversions 63, Taught



the Adult Bible Class, Conducted Weekly Broadcast, Edited a monthly Church paper, Attended 1 Christian Workers Inst., and the National Association Nashville, Tenn. Total receipts, \$2,289.35.

Rev. N. P. Gates:

Preached about 75 Sermons (condensed report), witnessed about 30 Conversions; Baptized 4; Preached 4 Funerals, assisted at 1 other; Officiated at 4 Weddings; Organized 1 Church, assisted in Organizing 1 other; Organized 1 F.W.B.L.; Pastored 1 Church; Preached at other places occasionally; Served as Associational Evangelist Nine months; Published 1 Minute; Compiled and Published 1 Combination Special song and Text book Served as Associational Clerk through the year; Traveled about 1500 miles in the gospel work; Served Pastorate without salary; Received compensations as Evangelist \$300.00; For Funerals \$35.00; For Weddings, \$20.00; For Associational Clerk hire, \$25.00; Love Offering from Pastorate, \$85.00, Total receipts, \$465.00.

Rev. McKinley Newsome;

Pastored 1 Church, preached approximately 60 Sermons; Baptized 18; Preached 1 Funeral, assisted at 3 others; Officiated at 5 Weddings; Served Church without salary; Received for Weddings, \$15.00 Donated to the Ecorse Free Will Baptist Church, \$234.80, also \$5.00 per month to the Free Will Baptist Bible College, Nashville, Tenn.

Rev. Maurice W. Roach;

Pastored 1 Church, preached 65 Sermons; Witnessed 8 Conversions; Baptized 6; Preached 2 Funerals; Officiated at 1 Wedding; Received as salary, \$275.00.

Rev. C. E. Riggs;

Having no Pastorate, have attended Services regularly and preached 30 Sermons; Baptized 9; Preached 1 Funeral; Solemnized 1 Marriage ceremony; Assisted in the Organizing 2 Churches.

Rev. George P. Warren;

Having no pastorate, though preached 22 Sermons; Witnessed 9 Conversions; Preached 1 Funeral; Officiated at 1 Wedding.

#### PRESBYTRY BOARD

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

Rev. Maurice W. Roach, Chairman.

Rev. Raymond Riggs, Recorder.

#### STANDING BUSINESS COMMITTEE

Rev. McKinley Newsome, Rev. Raymond Riggs, Bro. Cecil D. Vire, Bro. Max Brown and Sis. Vera Roach.

Rev. Raymond Riggs, Chairman

#### STANDING FINANCE COMMITTEE

Rev. George P. Warren, Bro. Preston Slocum and Bro. Jas. F. Sandafer.

#### ORDAINED MINISTERS ENROLLMENT

Rev. N. P. Gates, Lock Box 41, Hazel Park, Mich. Rev. C. E. Riggs, 944 E. Harry, Hazel Park, Mich. Rev. Maurice W. Roach, 2134 E. Kenneth, Flint, Mich. Rev. Raymond Riggs, 804 Annin St. Detroit, Mich. Rev. George P. Warren, 2106 Harwine St., Flint, Mich. Rev. Jas. Grisham, Milan, Mich. Rev. V. S.



Versnick, 18020 Fleming St, Detroit, Mich. Rev. Virgil Greenway, Highland Park, Mich. Rev. Everett L. Hall, Hazel Park, Mich. Rev. McKinley Newsome, 711 Hipp St., Melvindale, Mich. Rev. Harvey Garrison, Detroit, Mich.

#### LICENTATES.

Rev. Wm. Newsome, 711 Hipp St., Melvindale, Mich. Rev. Jimmie Gillum, Centerline, Mich. Rev. Roy Wood, Flint, Mich., and Dan Cronk, Hazel Park, Mich.

#### DEACONS ENROLLMENT

HAZEL PARK:—W. E. Gates, LaVan D. Pearce, Jas. F. Sandafer, Chas. E. Miller, Otis Butcher, Paul E. Carrier, Wm. Childres; HIGHLAND PARK:—Douglas Moore, Bert Bagwell, Tansil Orr, Tom Daniels, Preston Slocum; ECORSE CHURCH: Vint Kirk; FLINT CHURCH:—FREE WILL BAPTIST TEMPLE:—Cecil D. Vire, Theadore R. Goolsby; EAST SIDE CHURCH:—R. A. Parish, and H. P. Rippitoe.

#### DELEGATE ENROLLMENT.

HAZEL PARK:—E. J. Marine, Max Brown, and Sis. Ida Marine; HIGHLAND PARK: Sis. Loise Black, Sis. Thelma Bagwell, and Sis. Margurite Van Riper; ECORSE CHURCH:—Sis. Anna Newsome, Sis. Howard, and Sis. Tremsten; FIRST CHURCH OF FLINT:—Sis. Vera Roach, and Bro. Roy Wood; FREE WILL BAPTIST TEMPLE:—John Roberson, and Sis. Virgia Gates; EAST SIDE CHURCH:—Garland Crawford, and Rev. Harvey Garrison, as Special Representative.



## 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 of 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; 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 rege-

neration, 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; 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 the 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, impress 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 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; I 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 ac-



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. **PERSERVERANCE.** 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 backside 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; 1 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.—1 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; 1 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. **JUDGMENT.** 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 Tess. 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 Saturday before first Sunday in September.

## **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 members 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.

## **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 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.

### **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 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 .....,

bl letter ....., The church's 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	Received Into Fellowship	Dismissed by Letter	Excludede	Deaths	Number of Ministers	Sunday School	F.W.B.L.	Membership Enrollment
Hazel Park	Everett L. Hall	Ruby Withers,	18	0	0	0	4	x	x	102
Highland Park	Raymond Riggs,	Cleon Van Riper,						x	x	132
Ecorse Church	McKinley Newsome,		6	2	0	0	2	x	x	19
Free Will Baptist Temple	N. P. Gates,	Theadore R. Goolsby,	4	0	0	0	1	x	x	11
First Church, Flint	Maurice W. Roach,	Helen Belamy,	6	3	0	0	3	x	0	21
East Side Church	Virgil Greenway,	Garland Crawford,	2	0	0	0	2	x	0	9
		Total Membership	36	5			12	6	4	294