

**THE WOLVERINE ASSOCIATION**  
**OF**  
**FREE WILL BAPTISTS**  
**OF**  
**MICHIGAN**

**Proceedings**  
**of the 14th. Annual Session**  
**1955**



When Convened With the  
**GRACE FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH**  
(at the First Free Will Baptist Church of Hazel Park)  
**21800 STEPHENSON HWY.**  
Hazel Park, Michigan

**MINUTES**  
of the  
**Fourteenth Annual Session**  
of the  
**WOLVERINE ASSOCIATION**  
of  
**FREE WILL BAPTISTS OF MICHIGAN**

when convened with

**The Grace Free Will Baptist Church**  
**(at the First Free Will Baptist Church of Hazel Park)**  
**21800 STEPHENSON HWY.**  
**Hazel Park, Michigan**

**On June 2nd, 3rd and 4th**

**1955**



**OFFICERS**

Moderator .....	Rev. Mark M. Lewis
Assistant Moderator.....	Rev. Johnnie Floyd
Clerk .....	Mrs. Mildred Daniel
Assistant Clerk .....	Mrs. Louise Carte
Treasurer .....	Van Paschall
Reporter .....	Mrs. Geraldine Thomas
Parliamentarian.....	Rev. Charles A. Thigpen
State Foreign Mission Director.....	Rev. Gene Anderson
State Home Mission Director.....	Rev. Glenn E. Thomas
Member of the General Board of the Nat. Ass'n.....	Rev. Thurman Pate

# Committees and Boards

## Board of Finance

Bro. Royce Hogan, 1956

Bro. John Edwards, 1957

Rev. Johnnie Floyd, 1958

Bro. Claude Pinkston, 1959

Bro. Carl Brown, 1960

## Presbytery Board

Rev. Johnnie Floyd, 1956

Rev. Charles Thigpen, 1957

Rev. Mark Lewis, 1958

Rev. James Gillim, 1959

Rev. Thurman Pate, 1960

## Home Mission Board

Bro. Oddis Birchett, 1956

Bro. Ezra Walker, 1957

Bro. Carl Kilgore, 1958

Rev. Ira Carpenter, 1959

Bro. Dan Thomas, 1960

## Board of Education

Rev. Thurman Pate, 1956

Bro. Howard Lyle, 1957

Rev. Mark Lewis, 1958

Rev. Gene Anderson, 1959

Bro. Paul Robinson, 1960

## Superannuation Board

Rev. Thurman Pate, 1956

Bro. Van Paschall, 1957

Rev. J. A. Frederick, 1958

Rev. James Gillim, 1959

Rev. Ira Carpenter, 1960

## Program Committee

Rev. Mark M. Lewis

Rev. Glenn Thomas

Rev. Johnnie Floyd

# PROCEEDINGS

## THURSDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

Opened with congregational singing led by Sis. Eileen Dalton, followed with prayer by Rev. Bobby Jackson.

The Welcome Address was given by Rev. Glenn E. Thomas, pastor of the Grace Church, host to this Annual Conference. The Response to the welcome was given by Sis. Eileen Dalton of the Hazel Park Church.

Announcements were made by the Moderator, Rev. Mark M. Lewis.

The Moderator introduced to the body, Rev. John H. West of Tulsa, Oklahoma, guest speaker for this conference. Bro. West delivered the evening message from I Kings 21:1-10, using as a title, "Not For Sale."

Dismissed by the Moderator until tomorrow morning.

## FRIDAY MORNING BUSINESS SESSION

Opened with congregational singing led by Rev. Bobby Jackson.

Rev. Thurman Pate brought the devotional thought from the 6th chapter of Isaiah, followed with prayer.

Announcements were made by the Moderator.

The Moderator recognized the visiting ministers, Rev. Bobby Jackson and Rev. John H. West, and both gave their testimonies. These brethren were invited to be seated in counsel with this body.

A motion was carried to give the Moderator the privilege of changing the order of the prepared program as he may deem necessary.

Article IV of the Constitution pertaining to representation in the Wolverine Association was read to the body.

The receiving and reading of the Church Letters was called for and churches were represented by elected and standing delegations as follows:

	Elected	Standing
West Wayne Church .....	3	3
Philadelphia Church .....	3	1
Rouge Church .....	2	3
Grace Church .....	1	4
Burton Church .....	By Letter Only	
Benton Harbor Church .....	0	1
Niles Church .....	2	2
Crusaders Church .....	2	1
Friendship Church .....	3	1
Highland Park Church .....	1	2
Hazel Park Church .....	3	2

The Standing delegates were recognized and charged by the Moderator. A motion was made, sustained and carried to receive the Church Letters as read, seat their delegates and give due consideration to any items of business contained therein.

The Elected delegates were then recognized and charged by the Moderator.

Rev. J. A. Frederick led the body in a prayer of consecration.

The Rules of Decorum were read by the Moderator.

Letters to the Wolverine Association had been received and were read as follows:

1. A letter from the President of the Tulsa Chamber of Commerce.

A motion was carried to receive this letter and the clerk instructed to make proper reply to same.

2. A letter from the First Free Will Baptist Church of Tulsa, Oklahoma. A motion was carried to receive the letter.
3. A letter of appreciation for our contribution to the Lumen, coming from the Lumen staff. Received as information.
4. A letter of greeting from Rev. H. E. Willis and family of Paintsville, Ky. Letter received and the clerk instructed to send in return, a letter of appreciation.

The Moderator made temporary appointments to Committees and Boards as follows:

Standing Finance Committee—	Bro. Dan Thomas
	Bro. James Powell
Presbytery Board	—Rev. Glenn Thomas
Obituary Committee	—Sis. Blanche Maynard, Chairman
	Sis. Frances Walker
	Sis. Margaret Van Riper

### FRIDAY MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE

After a brief recess, congregational singing was led by Rev. Bobby Jackson. Prayer by Bro. Paul Robinson.

Rev. John H. West brought the morning message on the Sunday School, using as a text, Duet. 31:1-13.

Dismissed for the noon hour with the benediction pronounced by Bro. Royce Hogan.

### FRIDAY AFTERNOON BUSINESS SESSION

Opened with congregational singing led by Rev. W. D. Jagers. Prayer by Sis. Rita Caudell.

The devotional was given by Rev. Ward Wilson, new pastor of the West Wayne Church, who read John 4:30-35.

The Moderator welcomed and asked for a testimony from Miss Betty Bexton of the General Baptist Denomination, which she gave.

Reports were called for and given as follows:

1. An oral report of the District Woman's Auxiliary Convention was given by Sis. Blanche Maynard. Report received as information.
2. An oral report of the Foreign Mission Board was given by Rev. Mark M. Lewis. A motion was carried to adopt the suggested \$12,000.00 Foreign Mission quota for Michigan.
3. An oral report of the Board of Education was given by Rev. Mark Lewis concerning the winter session of the E.T.T.A., where fifty-one certificates were granted.
4. An annual written report of the Presbytery Board was read by Rev. Charles A. Thigpen, proxy for Rev. Johnnie Floyd. A motion was carried to receive the report and approve the work. (See REPORTS)
5. Annual ministerial reports were read by the clerk. A motion was sustained and carried to receive and approve these reports, thereby making these ministers eligible to receive their annual ministerial cards. (See MINISTERIAL REPORTS)
6. A report of the Constitution Revision Committee was read by Rev. Charles Thigpen. The Moderator declared the report duly received, to lie upon the table until tomorrow and to be voted upon at that time.
7. A report from the Committee appointed to look into the possibility of employing a full-time Promotional-Secretary for the



Wolverine Association was read by Bro. Thigpen. This matter has to do with a constitutional change and will thus be tabled until tomorrow's session.

### **FRIDAY AFTERNOON WORSHIP SERVICE**

Congregational singing was led by Rev. W. D. Jagers, followed with prayer by Bro. Daniel Thomas.

Rev. Bobby Jackson brought the afternoon message from II Cor. 5:17-20.

The session declared adjourned by the Moderator.

### **FRIDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE**

Congregational singing was led by Rev. Glenn Thomas, followed with prayer by Bro. Bob Revell; another song and prayer by Rev. Gene Anderson.

Rev. John H. West was presented and gave his personal testimony, followed by the evening message from Heb. 11:23-26.

Dismissed until tomorrow morning at 9:00 A.M.

### **SATURDAY MORNING BUSINESS SESSION**

Opened with congregational singing led by Rev. W. D. Jagers. Prayer by Bro. Tom Apple.

The devotional thought was given by Rev. Gene Anderson from Heb. 12:1.

The reading of the minutes up to this present moment was called for and declared approved as read.

Additional ministerial reports were read. A motion was carried to receive these reports, to approve the work and to grant the annual ministerial cards to these brethren. (See MINISTERIAL REPORTS)

Additional elected and standing delegates were recognized and declared seated in counsel with this body.

A tardy letter from the First Free Will Baptist Church of Flint was received and read. Motion carried to receive the letter.

The report of the Obituary Committee was read. A motion was carried to receive the report and to act upon the recommendation of the Committee. The body stood in a moment of silent meditation in honor of these loved ones, followed with prayer led by Sis. Lottie Pearce. (See REPORTS)

It was unanimously voted to hold the next Quarterly Conference with the Rouge Free Will Baptist Church.

Rev. Mark Lewis led the body in a brief testimonial service.

The Annual Treasurer's report was read by Bro. Van Paschall. A motion was sustained and carried to receive and adopt the report as read.

An oral report of the Superannuation Board was given by Bro. Paschall. The report was received as information.

The report of the Finance Committee was read by Bro. Royce Hogan. A motion was carried that the report be received with commendation for the Lord's blessings. The recommendations contained in this report were read. This portion of the report was received by the body with each recommendation contained therein to be voted upon individually. All four (4) recommendations were adopted. (See REPORTS)

The report of the Standing Business Committee was read by Rev. Charles Thigpen. A motion was carried to receive the report and to

dispose of it item by item. All six (6) recommendations contained therein were adopted. (See REPORTS)

The report of the Constitution Revision Committee was taken from the table and reread. A motion was made, sustained and carried to adopt the revised Constitution as amended. A copy of this document appears at the close of these minutes and reports.

The report of the committee appointed to investigate the possibility of employing a full-time Promotional-Secretary was taken from the table and reread. The report was adopted as amended.

The report of the Nominating Committee was read. A motion was carried to receive this report and to place these names in nomination. Officers were elected as follows:

Moderator—Rev. Mark M. Lewis  
Assistant Moderator—Rev. Johnnie Floyd  
Clerk—Mrs. Mildred Daniel  
Assistant Clerk—Mrs. Louise Carte  
Treasurer—Bro. Van Paschall  
Reporter—Mrs. Geraldine Thomas  
Parliamentarian—Rev. Charles A. Thigpen  
State Foreign Mission Director—Rev. Gene Anderson  
State Home Mission Director—Rev. Glenn E. Thomas

Vacancies in Boards and Committees were filled as follows:

Board of Finance—Bro. Carl Brown  
Presbytery Board—Rev. Thurman Pate  
Board of Education—Bro. Paul Robinson  
Superannuation Board—Rev. Ira Carpenter  
Program Committee—Rev. Mark M. Lewis  
Rev. Glenn E. Thomas  
Rev. Johnnie Floyd  
Home Mission Board—Bro. Daniel Thomas

Five delegates to the National Association were elected as follows: Bro. Royce Hogan, Bro. Daniel Thomas, Bro. Paul Robinson, Bro. Howard Lyle and Bro. Carl Kilgore.

Rev. Thurman Pate was elected as Michigan's representative to the General Board of the National Association.

A motion was carried to postpone any further discussion and the election of the Sunday School & League officers.

A motion was carried to adjourn this annual business session.

#### **SATURDAY MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE**

Congregational singing was led by Rev. W. D. Jagers, followed with prayer by Bro. Dan Thomas.

Rev. John H. West presented the morning message from Judges 7:19-21 on Sunday School work and pronounced the final benediction on this session.

Respectfully submitted  
Rev. Mark M. Lewis, Moderator  
Mrs. Mildred Daniel, Clerk

#### **DELEGATE ENROLLMENT**

ROUGE CHURCH—Rev. W. H. Guinn, Mrs. Nettie Thomas, Mrs. Grace Woody, Mrs. Wilma Wilson, Herman Thomas.

WEST WAYNE CHURCH—Rev. Ward Wilson, Sis. Rita Caudill, Sis. Edith Stegall, Sis. Gladys Hogan, Bro. Royce Hogan.

NILES CHURCH—Rev. W. D. Jagers, Bro. Buford Frederick, Sis. Lillie Frederick, Sis. U. V. Jagers.

FIRST CHURCH OF FLINT—By letter only.

BURTON CHURCH—By letter only.

GRACE CHURCH—Rev. Glenn E. Thomas, Sis. Loettia Chaney, Mrs. Kathleen Thomas, Bro. Barney Chaney, Bro. Daniel Thomas, Sis. Lillian Riley, Sis. Helen Keene.

PHILDELPHIA CHURCH—Sis. Frances Walker, Sis. Nell Peppers, Sis. Thelma Maxwell, Sis. Ova Bean, Bro. Ezra Walker.

BENTON HARBOR CHURCH—Rev. J. A. Frederick.

FRIENDSHIP CHURCH—Bro. James Powell, Sis. Naoma Powell, Bro. Reed Powell, Sis. Alma Miller.

CRUSADER CHURCH—Rev. Thurman Pate, Bro. Ernest Hawkins, Sis. Jeannette Wiggley, Bro. Ernest Cole.

HAZEL PARK CHURCH—Rev. Mark M. Lewis, Sis. Mamie Poston, Sis. Lola Dalton, Sis. Lottie Pearce, Sis. Vola Upchurch, Sis. Glenyce Beadles, Sis. Thelma Lewis, Sis. Thelma Carpenter.

HIGHLAND PARK CHURCH—Rev. Charles A. Thigpen, Bro. Carl Brown, Sis. Margaret Van Riper, Bro. Marvin Parker, Bro. Tom Apple, Bro. Paul Robinson, Bro. Van Paschall, Bro. Dillard Anderson, Bro. Harvey Crain, Bro. Thomas Creech, Bro. Theodore Jones.

## REPORTS

### ANNUAL PRESBYTERY BOARD REPORT

The Presbytery of the Wolverine Association met Nov. 18, 1954, at Niles, Mich., for the purpose of organizing a church and the ordination of a minister. In the absence of the Chairman, Rev. Charles Thigpen, Rev. Mark Lewis served as Moderator along with Rev. Johnnie Floyd and a proxy, Rev. J. A. Fredericks, representing the Presbytery.

The service was begun by singing "Love Lifted Me" and prayer by Bro. Walters, preceding an introduction of the Presbytery Board by Rev. Mark Lewis.

A message giving a challenge to the prospective church was delivered by Rev. Johnnie Floyd, the subject being, "What Are You Building For, Time Or Eternity?" (Col. 3:12-24).

Rev. Lewis then proceeded to organize the church after reading Matt. 16:13-18. He also read Chapter I, Section I of the Treatise of F.W.B. for the purpose of directing questions concerning the interested group to the prospective pastor, Rev. W. D. Jagers. The information was as follows: Length of work, three Sundays—Rev. W. D. Jagers and Bro. Charles Morgan, former of Benton Harbor, Mich., and latter of Little Rock, Ark., were beginners of the new work: Aver. Att. S.S.—26; Aver. Ch. Att.—44: Good testimony given of church members' characters by Bros. Jagers and Morgan: Four conversions to present time: Hall rented by month at \$45.00 per month: Will start building fund immediately upon organization: F.W.B. doctrine accepted: No eternal security belief in midst: Open communion accepted: Will join Wolverine Association and back it.

Motion made by Rev. J. A. Fredericks, seconded by Rev. Johnnie Floyd, member and proxy of Presbytery Board, to organize the group into a F.W.B. Church.



Rev. Lewis gave Bible in charge form to Rev. Jagers, who represented the church. Church Covenant was read and adopted by church group, who then presented themselves for charter membership, ten in number. Rev. Lewis entertained a motion that they be accepted and it was agreed that Church Charter stay open for thirty days.

Rev. Floyd made a move, seconded by Rev. Fredericks, that the Presbytery accept the action as official. A prayer of consecration was led by Rev. Lewis and Jagers. Rev. Lewis declared the First Free Will Baptist Church of Niles, Mich. in order and the membership then proceeded to elect the officers of the body.

Charter Members: William O. Grant, Charles W. Morgan, John W. Morgan, Mrs. Nellie Ruth Morgan, Clayton Grant, Mrs. Jewel Draper, Mrs. Catherine Morgan, Mrs. Dell Grant, Miss Ozella Morgan, Miss Mary Myers.

Bro. Charles Morgan nominated Bro. William O. Grant for clerk and treasurer. Rev. Lewis moved nominations cease and proceed to elect by acclamation. The Church approved.

Bro. William Grant nominated W. D. Jagers as Pastor. Bro. Charles Morgan moved nominations cease and proceed to elect by acclamation. The Church approved.

Since there was no deacon material at the present time, Rev. Lewis, Moderator, advised two trustees be elected. Bro. William O. Grant nominated Charles Morgan. Bro. Charles Morgan nominated John Morgan. The Church approved.

The Presbytery Board approved the action; Rev. Fredericks moved, seconded by Rev. Floyd, that the church with officers be acclaimed as set in order officially. Business was adjourned and song, "Amazing Grace", was sung.

### **PRESBYTERY LEADS ORDINATION SERVICE**

Moderator, Rev. Lewis called Rev. W. D. Jagers and wife forward for the ordination. Rev. Jagers testified of his call to the ministry: a Christian four years, need of work felt, received license given June, 1953, issued by Wolverine Association, twenty questions answered and passed on by Presbytery Board, license carried for one year, questions for ordination answered and passed on by Presbytery Board.

Rev. Lewis gave the Charge Message to Rev. Jagers and wife. The Charge was accepted by them before the council, the people and God.

The Bible, as the Word of God, was presented by Rev. Floyd to Rev. Jagers and wife.

The final moments of ordination by laying on of hands and prayer were carried out by the Presbytery, Rev. Lewis, Rev. Floyd and the proxy for Bro. Thigpen, Rev. Fredericks. Adjournment followed and the work was finished for the Lord in Niles, Mich.

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Presbytery meeting, Philadelphia F.W.B. Church, Dec. 2, 3 & 4, 1954.

Rev. Mark Lewis was elected Chairman of the Presbytery, Rev. Charles Thigpen was elected Vice-Chairman. Rev. Johnnie Floyd was elected Secretary and Clerk.

Business passed on:

1. Letter to be sent to Association of which Rev. Beasley is now a member in Missouri, c/o Rev. James Barker, Route #2, Farmington, Mo.
2. Give credentials to Deacon Powell of the Friendship F.W.B.

Church of Flint, Mich. He is transferring from the General Baptist.

3. Go to the Flint Friendship Church at a called, appointed time and ordain Arnold Clark as a deacon.
4. Further question and ordain Ward Wilson of the West Wayne F.W.B. church at a called, appointed time, for the ministry.
5. Send ordination questions to Jessie White, soon to be ordained as requested in petitionary letter to the Presbytery at the time set soon after Christmas of 1954.
6. Send Minister's card to W. D. Jaggers of Niles, Mich. He was recently ordained by the Presbytery.
7. Mr. White and Mr. Hogan of the West Wayne Church were thoroughly questioned by the Presbytery on this meeting. A date at an appointed, called time around the first of 1955 to be given for their ordination at said church.
8. Relicense John Edwards for the ministry. He is from the First Church of Flint.
9. Presbytery sanctions quartette from College in Nashville to come on an itinerate singing mission to Michigan upon the approval of the individual pastors.
10. Make investigation and ask surrender of credentials from George Ritter. Send request letter by registered mail for desired time of meeting. Send self-addressed envelope for return answer.
11. Mail deaconship papers to Myron Van Nada of Burton Church, Flint.

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Minutes of Presbytery meeting, Jan. 2, 1955, at the Philadelphia F.W.B. Church. Ordination of Bro. Jesse White.

Song service followed with prayer by Rev. Thurman Pate. Ordination sermon by Rev. Johnnie Floyd. Prayer by Bro. Kilgore. Presentation of Bible by Rev. James Gillim. Charge given by Rev. Charles Thigpen. Ordination prayer led by Bro. Thigpen. Bro. White was welcomed into fellowship, followed by a song. Presentation of certificate by Rev. Johnnie Floyd. Bro. White gave his testimony. Benediction was pronounced by Bro. Tancel Orr.

Members of Presbytery Board present: Rev. Charles Thigpen, Rev. Johnnie Floyd, Rev. James Gillim.

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Meeting of Jan. 9, 1955, 3:00 P.M., at River Rouge F.W.B. Church.

The Presbytery met at the River Rouge Church at the above stated time and date in order to put its stamp of approval upon two men, Bro. J. H. Davis and Bro. W. R. Myers, who had been set aside by the church for a period of one year as on trial for the deaconship. This was done upon the request of the church stated above. One year from this date, the two same men will be ordained by the Presbytery, if they have met the approval of the trial, their church and of course, the Wolverine Presbytery again after a further questioning. The Rev. Jimmy Gillim is the Pastor of the church from which the two brothers have been set aside.

Presbytery members present: Rev. Mark Lewis, Rev. Charles Thigpen, Rev. Johnnie Floyd, Rev. Jimmy Gillim.

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Minutes of Presbytery meeting Jan. 16, 1955, at the Friendship Church of Flint, Mich., for the ordination of a deacon.

Message and charge given by Rev. Mark Lewis. Ordination prayer by Rev. Charles Thigpen.

Arnold Clark was ordained to the office of deaconship.

Members of Presbytery present: Rev. Mark Lewis, Chairman; Rev. Charles Thigpen, Vice-Chairman; Rev. Johnnie Floyd, Secretary-Clerk; Rev. Maurice L. Roach, proxy.

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Minutes of Presbytery meeting, Feb. 4, 1955, meeting at the Hazel Park F.W.B. Church, in order to issue a renewal card of official standing to Bro. Harlan Kindrex, a previously ordained minister from Pikeville, Ky. This was requested by the Crusaders F.W.B. Church, of which he is a member. The request was put in official form by order of the Church on Dec. 9, 1954, in a business meeting of the members.

Members of the Presbytery present: Rev. Mark Lewis, Rev. Charles Thigpen, Rev. Johnnie Floyd, Rev. James Gillim.

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Minutes of the Presbytery meeting of March 4, 1955. Business passed on as follows:

1. Theodore Jones of the Highland Park F.W.B. Church to be sent the questionnaire for ministry license.
2. Cleo Foley of the Highland Park F.W.B. Church to be sent the questionnaire for ministry license.
3. Charles W. Morgan of Niles, Mich., F.W.B. Church to be sent the questionnaire for ministry license.
4. Barney Chaney of the Grace F.W.B. Church to be set aside by the church for one year trial for the ordained deaconship.
5. Raymond L. Thomas of Grace F.W.B. Church to be set aside by the church for one year trial for the ordained deaconship.

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At annual meeting, June, 1955, Theodore Jones of the Highland Park Church and Charles W. Morgan of the Niles Church were given licenses to preach the Gospel for one year. Both received grade of 75%.

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Minutes of the Presbytery meeting at the Annual session, June 3, 1955:

Motion made to receive Rev. W. H. Guinn as a recognized minister of the Wolverine Association, approve his present credentials from the Missionary Baptist denomination and issue to him the proper papers from this Association.

Motion made to grant the request of the Niles Church that Bro. Buford S. Frederick, 911½ East Lincoln Way, LaPorte, Indiana, be examined for the office of deacon and be placed on a six months' trial.

Rev. Johnnie Floyd, Clerk

## OBITUARY COMMITTEE REPORT

Since the last Annual Conference of the Wolverine Association, our Lord has seen fit to call home our beloved Brother Romie Turner of the Philadelphia Church and Sister Betty Ruth Wood of the Highland Park Church.

We, of the Obituary Committee, recommend that we stand in a moment of silent meditation in memory of these two loved ones, whose lives were devoted to the cause of Christ.

Blanche Maynard  
Frances Walker  
Margaret Van Riper



**TREASURER'S ANNUAL REPORT**  
**WOLVERINE ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS**

**JUNE 1, 1954 - JUNE 1, 1955**

Cash on Hand June 1, 1954.....	\$ 2,437.55
To Correct Error in Youth Camp Account.....	—56.89
	<hr/>
	\$ 2,380.66
Difference in Bank & Book Balance when Van Paschall took over books .....	101.11
	<hr/>
<b>CORRECTED BALANCE .....</b>	<b>\$ 2,481.77</b>

**Receipts**

**Tithes**

Philadelphia Church .....	\$ 709.91
Crusader Church .....	30.00
Highland Park Church .....	2,479.00
Friendship Church .....	91.00
Grace Church .....	177.67
1st Church of Flint.....	339.84
Niles Church .....	33.22
West Wayne Church .....	347.05
1st Church of Hazel Park .....	40.00
Royal Oak Mission .....	15.58
Breckenridge Church .....	45.00
Benton Harbor Church .....	50.00
Burton Church .....	16.14
Rouge Church .....	50.00
	<hr/>
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$ 4,424.41</b>

**FOREIGN MISSIONS**

Highland Park Church .....	\$6,191.78
Highland Park Missionary Conference.....	1,420.09
Friendship Church .....	125.00
Grace Church .....	114.48
1st Church of Flint .....	76.55
1st Church of Flint, League.....	30.00
1st Church of Hazel Park .....	905.63
West Wayne Church .....	218.33
Benton Harbor Church .....	40.00
Philadelphia Church .....	225.00
Rouge Church .....	103.84
Royal Oak Mission .....	21.88
Burton Church .....	21.92
	<hr/>
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$ 9,494.50</b>

**Home Missions**

Highland Park Church .....	\$1,049.58
Grace Church .....	10.00
1st Church of Flint .....	45.00
1st Church of Flint, League.....	30.00
West Wayne Church .....	68.79



Philadelphia Church .....	114.68	
Royal Oak Mission .....	21.88	
Total .....		\$ 1,339.93
<b>Bible College</b>		
Highland Park Church .....		\$ 928.59
<b>Youth Camp</b>		
Campers' Fees .....	\$ 959.00	
Sale of Camp Pictures .....	23.50	
Churches & Auxiliaries for Food.....	55.70	
Refund by Rev. Mishler .....	25.00	
Refund by Mrs. Collins .....	10.19	
Total .....		\$ 1,073.39
<b>Miscellaneous</b>		
Hazel Park Church (Repayment of Loan).....	\$ 600.00	
Offering, League & Sunday School Rally.....	84.74	
Wolverine League (Hazel Park).....	10.07	
Wolverine League (Gene Anderson).....	84.58	
Wolverine League (Highland Park).....	115.57	
Wolverine League (West Wayne) .....	15.00	
Minister's Part of Blue Cross.....	128.70	
Refund of Nat'l Assoc. Expense (Glenn Thomas)....	50.00	
Total .....		\$ 1,088.66
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS .....</b>		<b>\$18,349.48</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL .....</b>		<b>\$20,831.25</b>

#### Disbursements

National Foreign Mission Board .....	\$9,517.81
National Home Mission Board .....	1,308.92
F.W.B. Bible College .....	928.59
College Students .....	810.00
National Association, Co-Operative Program.....	1,769.72
Hospital Insurance Premiums .....	277.20
Life Insurance Premiums .....	101.96
Ordination Certificates .....	2.00
Postage .....	22.00
Bible Mediation League .....	100.00
Crusader's Church .....	200.00
Bible Conference, Delegate Expense.....	60.00
Office Supplies .....	20.13
E.T.T.A. Books & Supplies .....	77.25
Youth Camp Expense .....	1,175.42
College Lumen Advertising .....	50.00
Presbytery Board Travel Expense.....	54.78
1st Church of Hazel Park, Loan.....	600.00
Friendship Church .....	200.00
Printing Annual Minutes .....	207.03
Home Mission Board, Travel Expense.....	6.00
Superannuation Board, Travel Expense.....	10.00

Chapels for Cuba (Highland Park League).....	26.69	
National League Bd. (West Wayne).....	7.50	
Sunday School & League Rally Expense.....	25.84	
Rouge Church .....	200.00	
Moderator .....	50.00	
Clerk .....	50.00	
Treasurer .....	50.00	
Telephone Calls & Telegrams .....	13.55	
National Association Fee .....	5.00	
Delegate Expense to National Association.....	352.75	
		<hr/>
Total .....		\$18,280.14
		<hr/>
Balance Cash on Hand June 1, 1955.....		\$ 2,551.11
<b>Balance in Various Accounts</b>		
General Fund .....	\$ 265.39	
Superannuation Fund .....	1,024.92	
Youth Camp .....	267.25	
Wolverine League .....	217.72	
Home Missions .....	775.83	
		<hr/>
Total .....		\$ 2,551.11

## STANDING FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

### Recommendations:

1. We recommend that \$50.00 be paid to each elected delegate to the National Association from the Wolverine Association.
2. We recommend that we instruct the clerk to write each church in our connection, stating that the Wolverine Asssocation recommends that each local church bear all or part of their Pastor's expense to the National Association.
3. We recommend that \$200.00 be given to the Friendship Church to help on their new building. Half of this is to come from the General Fund and half from the Home Mission account.
4. We recommend that the Wolverine Association pay Bro. John West's expenses here and back and an honorarium be given him of \$50.00.

Royce L. Hogan  
J. A. Frederick  
Dan Thomas

## STANDING BUSINESS COMMITTEE REPORT

### Recommendations:

1. We recommend that 500 copies of the Annual Minutes be printed.
2. We recommend that Rev. T. M. Pate serve as proxy for Rev. H. C. Beasley at this session of the National Association and that a letter to this effect be sent to the clerk of the General Board.
3. We recommend that Rev. T. M. Pate's name be submitted to the National Association as our representative for the General Board from the Wolverine Association for 1955-56.
4. We recommend that a rising vote of thanks be given to our Moderator, Rev. Mark Lewis; our clerk, Sister Mildred Daniel and our Treasurer, Brother Van Paschall for their splendid work for the Association throughout this year.

5. We recommend that a rising vote of thanks be given to the Grace F.W.B. Church for their splendid entertainment during this Association.

6. We finally recommend that a standing vote of appreciation be given to the First F.W.B. Church of Hazel Park for the use of their spacious church facilities during this Association.

Rev. Charles Thigpen, Secretary

## REPORT OF COMMITTEE APPOINTED TO INVESTIGATE THE POSSIBILITY OF EMPLOYING A FULL-TIME PROMOTIONAL-SECRETARY

BE IT RESOLVED that a Promotional-Secretary be elected and that the Executive Board be charged with the arranging of the finances to support the office and the supervision of his duties. The election will be held at our next quarterly meeting.

BE IT RESOLVED that the qualifications of the Promotional-Secretary be as follows:

1. He shall be a born-again believer who shall be in harmony with the teachings of the Free Will Baptists as set forth in our Treatise of Faith and Practice.
2. He shall be in whole-hearted accord with the Wolverine Association and the National Association of Free Will Baptists.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the duties of the Promotional-Secretary be as follows:

1. The Promotional-Secretary shall be the coordinator of the work of the various Boards of the Wolverine Association.
2. He shall be charged with the responsibility of raising the Wolverine Association's share of the National Association budget.
3. It shall be his duty to investigate and recommend places for organizing new Free Will Baptist Churches.
4. It shall be his duty to assist any of our churches where the need arises.
5. It shall be his duty to contact other churches about joining the Wolverine Association.
6. It shall be his duty to be the contact or liaison man between the National Association and the Wolverine Association.
7. A quarterly report shall be given by the Promotional-Secretary of his activities. These reports shall be given at each regular meeting of the Wolverine Association.
8. The Promotional-Secretary shall have such other duties as commensurate with such an office.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles A. Thigpen

Johnnie Floyd

Van W. Paschall

Glenn Thomas, proxy

## REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Nominations suggested:

Moderator.....	Rev. Mark Lewis
Ass't. Moderator.....	Rev. Johnnie Floyd
Clerk.....	Mrs. Milred Daniel
Ass't. Clerk.....	Mrs. Louise Carte
Treasurer .....	Van Paschall
Reporter .....	Geraldine Thomas
Parliamentarian .....	Rev. Charles Thigpen
State Foreign Mission Director.....	Rev. Gene Anderson

State Home Mission Director.....	Rev. Glenn Thomas
Board of Finance.....	Bro. Carl Brown
Presbytery Board .....	Rev. Thurman Pate
Home Mission Board.....	Van Paschall
Board of Education.....	Paul Robinson
Superannuation Board.....	Rev. Ira Carpenter
Program Committee.....	Rev. Mark Lewis
	Rev. Glenn Thomas
	Rev. Johnnie Floyd

## MINISTERIAL REPORTS

**Rev. Charles A. Thigpen:** Served as pastor of the Highland Park Free Will Baptist Church. Taught the Adult Bible Class at local church. Served as teacher and counsellor at Great Lakes Youth Camp. Acted as Dean of Evangelical Teacher Training Association classes sponsored by the Wolverine Association and also taught one of the courses offered. Served as Chairman of the Executive Committee of the General Board of the National Association of Free Will Baptists. Moderator of the National Association of Free Will Baptists. Served as proxy for member of the Foreign Mission Board at the annual meeting. Attended the American Bible Society's annual meeting as representative of the Free Will Baptist denomination. Served as one of the speakers at the annual conference at the Free Will Baptist Bible College.

Attended the National Association of Free Will Baptists at Spartanburg, S.C. Served as Secretary-Treasurer of the Greater Detroit Evangelical Minister's Fellowship. Served on the Standing Business Committee, Presbytery Board, Board of Education and Program Committee of the Wolverine Association of Free Will Baptists.

Sermons preached:

At local churches.....	142
In Revival services.....	33
At Bible Conference.....	3
At Nat'l. Association .....	1
At South Carolina Free Will Baptist Children's Home.....	1
Total .....	180
Professions .....	42
Baptized .....	44
New Members Received.....	85
Revivals .....	3
Weddings .....	8
Funerals .....	6
Received for services as Pastor.....	\$4,677.60
Received for Revivals.....	685.00
Received for funerals and weddings.....	60.00
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	\$5,422.60

**Rev. George P. Warren:** Preached 12 sermons; 6 Conversions.

**Rev. Mark M. Lewis:** Positions served in:

1. Pastor—First Free Will Baptist Church of Hazel Park
2. Moderator—Wolverine Association of Free Will Baptists
3. Chairman—Board of Foreign Missions National Ass'n. of F.W.B.
4. Chairman-Director—Great Lakes Youth Comp
5. Chairman—Presbytery Board Wolverine Ass'n.
6. Chairman—Program Committee Wolverine Ass'n.



7. Secretary—Board of Education Wolverine Ass'n.
  8. Teacher—Intermediate Class, First F.W.B. Church
  9. Member—Executive Committee of the General Board of the National Ass'n. of Free Will Baptists.
  10. Secretary—Ministerial Association of Hazel Park.
- Conferences Attended:

National Association of Free Will Baptists; Bible Conference—Bible College, Nashville, Tenn.; Missionary Conference—Nashville, Tenn.; All sessions of the Wolverine Association; Missionary Conference at Highland Park.

Sermons Preached .....	114
Revivals Conducted .....	2
Professions Witnessed .....	36
Received into Church.....	24
Baptized .....	20
Weddings Performed .....	1
Funerals Preached .....	2
Received for all services rendered.....	\$4,433.65
Traveled in connection with all services rendered—Approx. 20,000 miles.	

**Rev. Glenn Thomas:** Served as pastor of the Grace Free Will Baptist Church; teacher of the Junior Sunday School Class; served as State Director of the Home Mission Board.

Sermons Preached .....	82
Conversions Witnessed .....	5
Baptized .....	5
Received into Fellowship .....	12

**Rev. J. A. Frederick:** Served as pastor of the Free Will Baptist Church of Benton Harbor, Michigan. I served in the Wolverine Association on the Superannuation Board and on the Standing Business Committee. I served as proxy for Rev. Charles A. Thigpen in organizing the Niles Free Will Baptist Church and in the ordination of Rev. W. D. Jagers.

Sermons Preached .....	105
Revivals Conducted .....	2
Conversions .....	17
Received into the Church.....	12
Baptized .....	20
Weddings Performed .....	1
Funerals Preached .....	1
Received for services rendered.....	\$294.00

**Rev. Thurman Pate:** Pastor of the Crusaders Free Will Baptist Church; Teacher of the Adult Class.

Sermons Preached .....	132
Conversions Witnessed .....	22
Baptized .....	1
Members Received .....	12
Funerals .....	2
Weddings .....	1
Revivals Conducted .....	1
Amount for Church Salary.....	\$2,405.00
Amount for Other Services.....	124.00

Total .....\$2,529.00

**Rev. W. D. Jaggers:** Served 7 months as pastor of the First Free Will Baptist Church of Niles. Teacher of the Adult Bible Class. Director of Teacher Training Class.

Sermons Preached .....	59
Members Received .....	20
Conversions .....	7
Rededications .....	1
Funerals .....	1
Amount Received from Church (salary).....	\$120.00

**Rev. Johnnie Floyd:** Pastor of the Philadelphia Free Will Baptist Church; teacher of Adult S.S. Class; member of General Board of National Association of Free Will Baptists; served as Secretary of Presbytery Board of Wolverine Association; attended the Annual Bible Conference and Missionary Conference in Nashville, Tenn.; also, the National Association in Spartanburg, S.C.

Sermons Preached .....	74
Members Received .....	23
Conversions Witnessed .....	44
Number Baptized .....	9
Revivals .....	0
Funerals .....	1
Wedding Ceremonies .....	1
Received for Services as Pastor.....	\$975.00

**Rev. Ward Wilson:** Ordained Jan. 15th of this year. Called to pastor the West Wayne Free Will Baptist Church on April 13th of this year. Guest speaker at Flint F.W.B. Church on April 24th. Held services at the Ecorse F.W.B. Church and the Ypsilanti F.W.B. Church.

Sermons Preached .....	32
Weddings Performed .....	3
Assisted in Baptizing .....	10
Salary Received .....	\$180.00

**Rev. Ira S. Carpenter:** Member of the First Free Will Baptist Church of Hazel Park. Taught the Adult Bible Class in Sunday School.

Sermons Preached .....	7
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**Rev. Gene Anderson:** President of the Free Will Baptist League at Hazel Park First Free Will Baptist Church. Teacher of the Senior Sunday School Class. Member of the Board of Education of the Wolverine Association. Working in weekly church meeting at Detroit House of Correction under Rev. H. E. Weinzierl of Radio Temple.

Messages Delivered .....	29
Professions Witnessed .....	17
Rededications Witnessed .....	3
Received for Services.....	\$15.00

## ORDAINED MINISTERS

Rev. Gene Anderson, 17139 Marx St., Detroit, Michigan  
 Rev. L. B. Borden, (Address not known)  
 Rev. Ira S. Carpenter, 23048 Vassar, Hazel Park, Michigan  
 Rev. Daniel Cronk, Missionary to India  
 Rev. Johnnie Floyd, 14202 Flanders, Detroit, Michigan  
 Rev. Dewey Fraley, 1534 Hawly Court, Willow Run Village, Michigan  
 Rev. J. A. Frederick, 3547 Bluecreek Rd., Benton Harbor, Michigan  
 Rev. James Gillim, 904 Algonquin, Detroit, Michigan  
 Rev. W. H. Guinn, 164 Richter, River Rouge, Michigan  
 Rev. W. D. Jaggers, 2890 Detroit Rd., Niles, Michigan

Rev. Harlan Kendrick, 3717 E. Larned, Detroit, Michigan  
 Rev. Don Lee (Address not known)  
 Rev. Paul E. Lee, F.W.B. Bible College, Nashville, Tenn.  
 Rev. Mark M. Lewis, 23082 Hazelwood, Hazel Park, Michigan  
 Rev. Henry Litteral, 2332 Bergen Ave., Flint, Michigan  
 Rev. Harold Lucas, 234 E. Russell, Flint, Michigan  
 Rev. Bill McClintock, 17490 Cameron, Detroit, Michigan  
 Rev. William Mishler, Headquarters Bldg., Nashville, Tenn.  
 Rev. Thurman Pate, 1606 Central, Detroit, Michigan  
 Rev. Maurice W. Roach, 627 W. Atherton Rd., Flint, Michigan  
 Rev. Charles A. Thigpen, 221 W. Hollywood, Detroit, Michigan  
 Rev. Glenn E. Thomas, 27036 Lenox, Royal Oak, Michigan  
 Rev. George P. Warren, 2106 Harwine St., Flint, Michigan  
 Rev. Jessie White, F.W.B. Bible College, Nashville, Tenn.  
 Rev. Ward Wilson, 3980 John Hix Rd., Wayne, Michigan

#### **LICENTIATES**

Bro. John Edwards, Flint, Michigan  
 Bro. Theodore Jones, 12353 Hawthorne, Highland Park, Michigan

#### **ORDAINED DEACONS**

ROUGE CHURCH: Herman Thomas; Jack Hagan, Joe Wilson; Andrew Worley; Willard Meyers; Hubert Davis.  
 WEST WAYNE CHURCH: Adolph Felon; Julian White; Royce Hogan; Thurman Grace.  
 NILES CHURCH: None.  
 FIRST CHURCH OF FLINT: Braxton Click; John Edwards; Guy Wilson.  
 BURTON CHURCH: Oddis Birchett; Oscar Hollis; Myron VanNada.  
 GRACE CHURCH: Daniel E. Thomas.  
 PHILADELPHIA CHURCH: Ezra Walker; Herman Rippetoe; Carson Jaquess; Othia Goolsby, Daton Wassom.  
 BENTON HARBOR CHURCH: James Harris; Robert Russell.  
 FRIENDSHIP CHURCH: James C. Powell; Arnold Clark.  
 CRUSADERS CHURCH: Carl D. Kilgore; Odevah Cox; George Cantrell.  
 HAZEL PARK CHURCH: LaVan Pearce; David Allison; Paul Carrier.  
 HIGHLAND PARK CHURCH: Tancel Orr; Preston Slocum; Douglas Moore; Thomas Creech; Harvey Crain; Fred McChesney; Thomas Carlile.

## **CONSTITUTION**

### **PREAMBLE**

The object and purpose of this organization shall be to unify and strengthen the work of the various churches composing the Wolverine Association of Free Will Baptists and to devise and execute measures for the extension of the Kingdom of God in connection with the various churches in the Association or that may be hereafter represented therein.

### **ARTICLE I**

**NAME**—This organization shall be known as the Wolverine Association of Free Will Baptists of Michigan.

### **ARTICLE II**

**COMPOSITION**—The Wolverine Association shall be composed of its general officers, the members of all boards or committees, and duly appointed delegates chosen by the churches belonging to said Association.

### **ARTICLE III**

**REPRESENTATION**—Representation in the Wolverine Association is to be by churches which are affiliated with this body. Each church shall be entitled to six delegates elected from the laity, all ordained



ministers, deacons, licensed preachers, pastor's wife, church clerk, general Sunday School superintendent, general league director and president of Woman's Auxiliary, providing the delegates are members in good standing of the local church they represent.

#### ARTICLE IV

**Section 1. OFFICERS**—The officers of this Association shall consist of a Moderator, an Assistant Moderator, a Clerk, an Assistant Clerk, a Treasurer and a Promotional Secretary, each of whom shall be elected at the close of each annual session.

**Section 2. BOARDS**—The Boards of the Wolverine Association shall be the following: Board of Finance, Presbytery Board, Home Mission Board, Board of Education, Superannuation Board, and Sunday School and League Board. The personnel of each of the foregoing shall be elected as follows: the first named for a term of one year, the second for a term of two years, the third for a term of three years, the fourth for a term of four years, and the fifth for a term of five years. Succession to office thereafter shall be for a period of five years.

**Section 3. COMMITTEES**—Committees, as necessary, shall be appointed by the Moderator unless otherwise provided for, and shall hold office until their work is completed or until their successors are elected.

#### ARTICLE V

**EXECUTIVE BOARD**—The Executive Board shall consist of the Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer of the Wolverine Association and the Chairman of each of the Boards of the Wolverine Association. The Promotional Secretary shall be an Ex-officio member of the Executive Board.

#### ARTICLE VI

**FINANCE**—We recommend that each church pay ten per cent (10%) of its regular income into the treasury of the Association to be used in the various phases of the denominational work at the discretion of the Association. (Compliance with this recommendation is not compulsory for affiliation, but the plan has proven successful in financing our work.)

#### ARTICLE VII

**Section 1. DISCIPLINE**—This Association shall have power to act only as an advisory counsel to give churches advice in matters of difficulty; to enquire into the way churches neglect to represent in this Association; to invite brethren in the ministry to a seat in the Association; to exclude from the body any member who does not conform to the Rules of Decorum and shall report their conduct to the church from which they were sent.

**Section 2.** All matters involving disciplinary matters shall be handled according to the Treatise of the National Association of Free Will Baptists.

#### ARTICLE VIII

**MEETINGS**—The meetings of the Wolverine Association shall be held each quarter and shall begin on Thursday night before the first Sunday in June, September, December and March. The meeting beginning before the first Sunday in June shall be called the Annual Meeting.

#### ARTICLE IX

**WOMAN'S AUXILIARY**—The District Woman's Auxiliary Convention shall be recognized as a subordinate organization to the Wolverine Association. It shall organize at its own discretion and have power to create and adopt a Constitution and By-Laws, and maintain complete management of the work for which it is constituted. An annual report shall be submitted to the Wolverine Association.



## ARTICLE X

This Constitution may be amended or altered at any regular Annual session of the Wolverine Association by a two-thirds vote of the members present, provided proposed amendment or alteration be presented to the body in writing one day in advance.

## BY - L A W S

1. The Moderator and the Treasurer shall receive an honorarium of \$50.00 each annually, for their services. The Clerk shall receive \$100.00 annually.
2. The Standing Boards shall be composed of five (5) members each and may be elected either from the ordained authority or the laity, except the Presbytery. The Presbytery shall consist of ordained authority, two of which may be Deacons. The members of Standing Boards shall be elected for a term of five (5) years, with their term of office to expire alternately.
3. The duties of the various Standing Boards shall be to plan a program and supervise its operation in their respective fields. They shall organize themselves and regulate their work as may become necessary and as may be found in harmony with the principles and tenets of the Wolverine Association. Each Board shall draft By-Laws to govern their work. These By-Laws shall be subject to the approval of the Wolverine Association.
4. Any duly ordained minister or deacon, who is in good standing with this body has the privilege of sitting in council with the Presbytery at any time, but will not be permitted to vote unless he is appointed to serve by proxy, by an absentee member or selected by a majority present.
5. The purpose of the Presbytery shall be for the mutual improvement of the ministry, their protection against hostile influences, for the maintaining of a clean and pure character among those of the ordained authority. It shall also become the duty of the Presbytery to examine all candidates for license to preach the Gospel or to ordain the same at the request of the local church.
6. Before granting a license or endorsing credentials of any minister from another denomination to preach the Gospel, the candidate must have been a member of a church in this Association at least six (6) months.
7. The local church must first request by letter the licensing or ordaining of all candidates before the Presbytery can act.
8. Before license or ordination, the candidate is examined as to his gifts, personal piety and doctrines, his call to the ministry, his adaptability and devotion to the work, his reputation, character, ability, and his present and prospective educational and professional qualifications. A list of questions should be prepared by the Presbytery and the candidate should be required to make a grade of not less than 70% before license is granted. The examination for ordination should include all that is required for license, and also satisfactory examination respecting the life and labors of the candidate and his attainments, at least in the departments of English education, doctrinal and pastoral theology, and homiletics.
9. The examination of deacons shall be according to I Timothy, Chapter 3.

10. A minister shall be licensed for a period of one year, after which his local church may request another examination and the Presbytery shall decide whether or not the license be extended or the candidate be ordained. If an offense is made during the year, and the candidate repents, the license will be forfeited and he will be forced to begin anew.
11. A minister from another denomination wishing to unite with this Association must first make application to a church which requests action of the Presbytery the same as for license or ordination.
12. Be it known that any minister or deacon coming under the hands of the Presbytery who walks disorderly, or commits an offense must come before this body and make restitution or willingly give up such rights of license or ordination papers or card by this body, or they agree to be published in any or all newspapers as this body deems necessary.
13. An annual written report of the activities of every board shall be made by the secretary of each board to the Association, or as often as is necessary.
14. All ministers of this Association are required to report in person or letter to the Annual Association with a written report of their work. Failure to report to the Association at least once a year will forfeit the minister's standing and he will be dropped from the Association.
15. The Constitution and By-Laws are to be printed in Minutes at all times.
16. For further information pertaining to the officers of the local church and their duties, the church should consult the Treatise of the National Association of Free Will Baptists, Chapter I, under "The Church".
17. These By-Laws may be amended at any regular session of the Wolverine Association by a two-thirds vote of the members present and voting.

## DOCTRINE

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; I 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 Creation, left the courts of Heaven and came to this earth: took upon Himself the form of humanity, 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. Isa. 9:6; St. John 1:14; Luke 1:26-28; 24:50-53; Acts 1:9-12; Mark 16:9-19; 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; Isa. 63:10-12; Eph. 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 the inspiration

of God, is our way-bill from earth to Heaven, and the only infallible rule of faith and practice. II Pet. 1:19-21; II 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 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; Rom. 5:12-19; John 3:6; Eph. 2:3.

6. **REDEMPTION, SALVATION, ADOPTION.** We believe Jesus Christ by His birth, death, burial, resurrection and ascension paid the purchase price for all who come upon Gospel terms, a law of adoption into the Kingdom of Heaven, and of 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, Isa. 15:22.

7. **CONDITION 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 an 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 3; 4:11-16; Matt. 19; 13-22; I Cor., 7:10; Luke 18:16-17; Psalms 98:3.

8. **SALVATION FREE.** We believe that God desires the salvation of all, Christ died for all, the Gospel invites all, and whosoever will may come and be saved upon the terms of the Gospel. I Pet. 1:9-25; 2:9-25; Rev. 22:17.

9. **BAPTISM.** We believe that Christian baptism is the immersion of believers in water in the name of the Father, 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 Presidency of the Elders are qualified to administer the same. Matt. 3:14-16; 3:5-6; I Pet. 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 saint's feet are ordinances of the Gospel of Christ; the Lord's Supper was instituted by our Saviour 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 22:18, 20; I Cor. 11:20-29; St. John 13:1-17; Matt. 26:26-29.

11. **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. Ex. 20:11; 31:12-18; Deut. 5:12-15; Ezek. 20:12; Matt. 28:1; Luke 23:56; Acts 13:12-18; Mark 2:27.

12. CALL TO THE MINISTRY. We believe in divine call to 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 to 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 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 each other, agreeing to keep up a good discipline and doctrine according to the rules of the Gospel. II Thess. 1:1; Acts 16:5; III John 1:19; Matt. 18:17; Acts 20:28; Rev. 1:4-20.

14. 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 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 willfully refuse or neglect to perform their duty, they would backslide; if persistently continued, would be eternally lost. II Pet. 1:12; II Cor. 9:10; II Pet. 1:4-8; 2:2; Rom. 8:35-39; Apostacy: II Pet. 18-9; I Cor. 10:1-13; Heb. 12:15-17; I John 5:16; Heb. 6:1-6; I 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 the 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; II Thess. 2:13; Heb. 12:14; Phil. 3:21; II Thess. 5:19-23; St. John 17:17-19; II Tim. 2:20-21.

18. THE RESURRECTION. We believe in the resurrection of the dead, both 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 forever; 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 23:48; 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 everlasting happiness. II Thess. 1:4-9; Rev. 14:9-13; Luke 16:23; Rev. 21:8; II Cor. 5:10; Matt. 12:36; Rev. 20:12-13; Acts 17:31.



## **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 it necessary.
10. No member shall speak longer than fifteen minutes at any time without leave of the Moderator.

## **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 all appearances 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 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 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, so 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.

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.

# STATISTICAL TABLE

CHURCH	PASTOR	CLERK										
			Received into Fellowship									
			Dismissed									
			Deceased									
			Conversions									
			Ministers									
			S. S. Membership									
			F. W. B. L. Membership									
			Woman's Aux. Membership									
			Church Membership									
1. Benton Harbor Church	Rev. J. A. Frederick	Robert Russell	3	2	0	12	1	60	15	9	51	
2. Breckenridge Church	Rev. Gene Anderson	Martha Pulles	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
3. Burton Church	Rev. Maurice Roach	Ruth VanNada	4	8	0	3	2	90	25	12	80	
4. Crusader Church	Rev. Thurman Pate	Mary Kilgore	25	32	0	36	4	130	42	12	104	
5. First Church of Hazel Park	Rev. Mark M. Lewis	Louise Carte	0	4	0	0	2	—	31	—	51	
6. First Church of Flint	Rev. Henry Litteral	Mourie Davis	5	—	0	—	2	60	—	—	40	
7. Friendship Church	Rev. Harold Lucas	Clarlene Clark	12	0	0	5	1	—	23	8	24	
8. Grace Church	Rev. Glenn Thomas	Lillian Riley	85	12	1	40	1	500	87	38	648	
9. Highland Park Church	Rev. Charles Thigpen	Paul Robinson	20	0	0	8	1	38	0	0	20	
10. Niles Church	Rev. W. D. Jaggers	W. O. Grant	23	5	1	44	4	134	50	35	117	
11. Philadelphia Church	Rev. Johnnie Floyd	Faye Davinport	4	7	0	6	1	115	30	15	75	
12. Rouge Church	Rev. W. H. Guinn	Mattie Shelton	14	4	0	16	2	100	40	0	68	
13. West Wayne Church	Rev. Ward Wilson	Angela Felon										
14. Ypsilanti Church	Rev. Dewey Fraley	Peggy Kendrick										
Totals			197	74	2	170	22	1227	343	129	1278	