

**The 129th ANNUAL SESSION
OF THE
GEORGIA UNION ASSOCIATION
OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS**

**Saturday, October 12, 2024
New Hope FWB Church, Cochran, GA**

GENERAL OFFICERS

Moderator	Dr. Billy Sharpston
Assistant Moderator	Rev. Roy Woods
Clerk	Rev. Clint Adams
Assistant Clerk	Rev. Craig Minor
Treasurer	Donna Jewell
Assistant Treasurer	Wendy Martin
Member at Large	Nita Hobbs

Table of Contents

Table of Contents.....	1
Upcoming Association Meetings.....	2
Dates to Remember.....	3
General Officers.....	3
Executive Board Members, Boards.....	4
Ministers on Roll.....	6
Georgia Union Minutes 2024.....	7
Minutes: January Session.....	7
Minutes: April Session.....	10
Minutes: July Session.....	12
Minutes: October Session.....	15
Constitution and By-Laws.....	18
Georgia Union Association.....	18
State Camping Board Representative.....	26
Christian Education Board.....	26
Mission Board.....	28
Ordaining Board.....	31
Trustee Board.....	38
Georgia Union Churches.....	40
Annual Church Statistics.....	42
Church Covenant.....	Back Cover

Upcoming Association Meetings

1st Quarterly Session	Jan 11, 2025	Pine Level, Chester, GA
2 nd Quarterly Session	Apr 12, 2025	Pleasant Hill, Vienna, GA
3 rd Quarterly Session	July 12, 2025	White Oaks, Macon, GA
Annual Session	Oct 11, 2025	Bay Springs, Eastman, GA

PREACHERS FOR EACH SESSION

(Subject to Change)

January 2025	Rev. Clint Adams
April 2025	Rev. David Amburgey
July 2025	Rev. Trent Dykes
October 2025	Rev. Russell Horne

RECOMMENDED ORDER OF BUSINESS

Call to Order by Moderator
Open Meeting with Prayer/Song—Host Church
Welcome by Host Pastor
Devotional
Adopt Program with Necessary Changes
Welcome Visitors
Roll Call of Ministers
Recognize All Deacons
Roll Call of Delegates
Seat Delegates
Report of Committees
Old/New/Misc. Business
Offering
10 minute break
Song by Host Church
Report of Digest Committee & Treasury
Adjourn Business Session
Special Music
Morning message
Announcements

Dates to Remember

March 20-21, 2025:

Ga. State Association of FWB, 89th Annual Meeting at First Free
Will Baptist Church, Columbus, GA

May 3, 2025:

GA State Youth Competition at Awaken Church, Tifton, GA

July 20-23, 2025:

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION of FWB Annual Meeting to be held in
Kansas City, MO

General Officers

Moderator (2025)	Dr. Billy Sharpston 3568 North Side Dr Macon, GA 31210 Apt. 117	478-957-2272 (C) sharpston2@bellsouth.net
Assistant Moderator (2025)	Rev. Roy Woods 979 W. Hope Church Rd Alamo, GA 30411	229-868-8028 (C) roywoods912@gmail.com
Clerk (2025)	Rev. Clint Adams 1980 Double Branch Rd Hawkinsville, GA 31036	478-867-2142 jclint33@yahoo.com
Assistant Clerk (2025)	Rev. Craig Minor 111 Benny Sharp Rd Hawkinsville, GA 31036	478-231-0635 (C) cminor184@hotmail.com
Treasurer (2025)	Donna Jewell 118 Quinelle Drive Perry, GA 31069	478-972-3604 (C) donna.jewell@jonescork.com
Assistant Treasurer (2026)	Wendy Martin 256 Daylily Rd Rochelle, GA 31079	229-287-9877
Member at Large (2025)	Nita Hobbs 9465 Hwy 215 Vienna, GA 31092	229-268-6211 nitahobbs11@gmail.com

Executive Board Members

Dr. Billy Sharpston.....	Moderator
Rev. Roy Woods.....	Assistant Moderator
Rev. Clint Adams.....	Clerk
Rev. Craig Minor.....	Assistant Clerk
Rev. Clint Adams.....	State Camp Board Representative
Rev. Jacob Martin.....	Chairman of CE Board
Donna Jewell.....	Treasurer
Wendy Martin.....	Assistant Treasurer
Rev. Craig Minor.....	Chairman of Ordaining Board
Gene Collins.....	Chairman of Trustee Board
Rev. David Amburgey.....	Chairman of Mission Board
Nita Hobbs.....	Member at Large

Trustee Board (Five-Year Terms)

(2025) Gene Collins	1051 N. Pine Knoll Dr.	478-747-3356
	Macon, GA 31204	
(2026) Wayne Martin	1325 Mitchell Road	229-624-2066
	Rochelle, GA 31079	
(2027) Grover Jewell	118 Quinelle Dr.	478-972-3603
	Perry, GA 31069	
(2028) Johnny Johnson	3011 Williams Rd	478-954-0693
	Unadilla, GA 31091	
(2029) Joseph Boyd	P.O. Box 313	229-457-8282
	Abbeville, GA 31001	

Ordaining Board (Five-Year Terms)

(2025) Jacob Martin	256 Daylily Rd	229-624-2846
	Rochelle, GA 31079	229-322-7012 (C)
(2026) Larry Mullis	P.O. Box 502	478-374-5156 (H)
	Eastman, GA 31023	478-231-6812 (C)
(2027) Wayne Martin	1325 Mitchell Road	229-624-2066
	Rochelle, GA 31079	
(2028) Emory Howell	387 Empire-Chester Hwy,	478-298-2644
	Cochran, GA 31014	
(2029) Crain Minor	111 Benny Sharp Rd	478-231-0635
	Hawkinsville, GA 31036	

State Camping Board Representative

(2026) Clint Adams	1980 Double Branch Rd	478-867-2142
	Hawkinsville, GA 31036	

Digest Committee (Three-Year Terms)

(2025) Gene Collins	1051 Pine Knoll Dr.	478-747-3356
	Macon, GA 31204	
(2026) Grover Jewell	118 Quinelle Drive	478-972-3603
	Perry, GA 31069	

Mission Board (Two-Year Terms)

(2026) Tommy Parker	117 Lonnie Bryant Rd. Cochran, GA 31014	478-934-6048
(2026) Roy Woods	979 W. Hope Church Rd. Alamo, GA 30411	229-868-8028
(2026) Sue Lindsey	1140 E. Chicken Rd. Chester, GA 31012	478-697-6000
(2026) Craig Minor	111 Benny Sharp Rd Hawkinsville, GA 31036	478-231-0635
(2026) T. R. Fountain	71 Coleman Cemetery Rd. Eastman, GA 31023	478-374-3148
(2026) <u>David Amburgey</u>	2482 Ramble Wood Ct Acworth, GA 30102	470-298-5360

Christian Education Board (Three-Year Term)

(2026) Druward Williams	4266 Abbeville Hwy Eastman, GA 31023	478-231-0435
(2027) Larry Mullis	P.O. Box 502 Eastman, GA 31023	478-374-5156
(2027) Gene Collins	1051 N. Pine Knoll Drive Macon, GA 31204	478-747-3356
(2027) Harold Dunaway	Rt. 3 Box 150 Hawkinsville, GA 31036	478-892-2949
<u>(2027) Jacob Martin</u>	256 Daylily Rd. Rochelle, GA 31079	229-624-2846 229-322-7012 (C)

STATE BOARD REPRESENTATIVES

(2026) Camp Rep.	Rev. Clint Adams	478-867-2142
(2027) Christian Ed Bd	Rev. Jacob Martin	229-322-7012
(2026) Mission Board	Rev. David Amburgey	470-298-5360
(2025) Trustee Board	Gene Collins	478-747-3356

NOMINATING COMMITTEE (Elected Each Year)

Grover Jewell	Emory Howell	Wayne Martin
----------------------	---------------------	---------------------

FINANCE COMMITTEE (Elected Each Year)

Donna Jewell	Wendy Martin	Grover Jewell
---------------------	---------------------	----------------------

Ministers on Roll

Honor Roll (Ordained, Exempt from Reporting)

Horne, Russell	276 Vernon Rd. Cochran, GA 31014	912-256-4572
Howell, Tony	22 Beachwood Dr. Eastman, GA 31023	478-308-4856
Jewell, Grover	118 Quinelle, Dr. Perry, GA 31069	478-972-3603 grover.jewell@yahoo.com
Lawson, Ronnie	561 Old Brookfield Rd. Tifton, GA 31794	229-382-8149
Martin, Wayne	1325 Mitchell Road Rochelle, GA 31079	229-624-2066
Sharpston, Billy	3568 North Side Dr Macon, GA 31210 Apt. 117	478-957-2272 sharpston2@bellsouth.net
Woods, Roy L	979 West Hope Church Rd Alamo, GA 30411	229-868-8028 roywoods912@gmail.com

Ministers Ordained

Adams, Clint	1980 Double Branch Rd. Hawkinsville, GA 31036	478-867-2142 jclint33@yahoo.com
Amburgey, David	2482 Ramble Wood Ct Acworth, GA 30102	470-298-5360 amburgeyd@hotmail.com

Dixon, James	72 Popular Springs Rd Eastman, GA 31023	478-374-5219
Dykes, Trent	456 Bowers Cemetery Rd Cochran, GA 31014	478-230-3876
Hardeman, Charles	20 Golf Course Rd Eastman, GA 31023	478-374-3618
Howell, Emory	387 Empire-Chester Hwy Cochran, GA 31014	478-298-2644
Lewis, Johnny	187 Old Blackshear Rd Cordele, GA 31015	229-947-2393
Martin, Jacob	256 Daylily Rd Rochelle, GA 31079	229-322-7012 (C) 229-624-2846
Minor, Craig	111 Benny Sharp Rd Hawkinsville, GA 31036	478-231-0635 cminor184@hotmail.com
Mullis, Larry	P.O. Box 502 Eastman, GA 31023	478-374-5156
Youngblood, Ronnie	150 Holcomb Road Arabi, Ga. 31712	229-322-9288

Ministers Licensed

Dykes, Landon	456 Bowers Cemetery Rd Cochran, GA 31014	478-230-9579
Stokes, Donny	508 Scarborough-Owens Rd, Eastman, GA 31023	478-285-0970
White, Joseph	315 North Railroad Ave Chauncey, GA 31011	229-332-0058

Georgia Union Minutes 2024

1st Quarterly Meeting
Georgia Union Minutes
January 13th, 2024
First Eastman Free Will Baptist Church

The Georgia Union Association of Free Will Baptists met in Eastman, Georgia, at First Free Will on January 13th, 2024. Rev. Grover Jewell prayed, and the congregation sang “What A Day That Will Be.” Rev. Tony Howell gave a devotional on 1 Peter 4:12-14 and Moderator, Dr. Billy Sharpston, called the meeting to order.

M/S/C to adopt the program with necessary changes.

The roll was called with 11 ministers, as well as 10 deacons, with delegates totaling 22, giving a total voting body of 43. M/S/C to seat delegates.

Report of Committees:

Executive Board: Rev. Clint Adams, Clerk

On December 9th, 2023, the Executive Board of the Georgia Union met at Cornerstone Church. The Board has the following two recommendations:

1. That a rising vote of thanks be given to First Eastman Free Will Baptist Church for hosting the association meeting.
2. That today's offering go to the retired ministers fund. M/S/C

Ordaining Board Report: Rev. Craig Minor - Chairman No Report

Mission Board: Rev. David Amburgey - Chairman

As of December 23rd, the Mission Board has \$21,224.11 in total funds. There is a focus on building funds back up to possible one day help fund a mission work in our area. Please talk to your church about adding us to your budget. M/S/C

State Camp Representative: Rev. Clint Adams

There will be Teen Camp this year called "Camp Remnant." It will be hosted at Whitewater Express in Copperhill, Tennessee from Tuesday, May 28th, to Saturday, June 1st. If fees are turned in by May 1st, the cost is \$225 per camper. If fees are turned in after May 1st, it will be \$275. The State Camping Board will also give \$1,000 to help any junior camp. M/S/C

Christian Education Board: Rev. Jacob Martin - Chairman

Revival meeting went well. Have tried to do outreaches with youth in the past and are looking for ideas for working with youth. We need to come together as an association on this to help us all to grow. M/S/C

Trustee Board: Bro. Gene Collins – Chairman No Report.

Digest Committee Report: Bro. Gene Collins

There were 13 churches reporting, 10 members added, 4 members lost, with a net gain of 6, and 2 baptized, with total offerings being \$226,741.91 M/S/C. These numbers include information which was turned in late.

Treasurer's Report: Sister Donna Jewell, Treasurer

Ending Balance as of 12/31/2023		\$8,555.60
Deposits (4 th Quarter 2023)		+ \$5,656.30
Ministers' Retirement (\$203.30)		
Quarterly Dues (\$620.00)		
Offering (\$306.00) (Welch College)		
Church Revival Donations (\$1,200.00)		
Revival Offerings (\$727.00)		
National Dues (\$2,600.00)		
		\$14,211.90
Disbursements (4 th Quarter 2023)		- \$2,840.00
Ministers' Retirement (\$500.00)		
Moderator/Clerk Fees (\$200.00)		
GSAFWB for Welch College (\$306.00)		
Board Meeting Mileage (3 rd and 4 th Quarters \$317.00)		
NAFWB (Eddie Moody) (\$1,517.00)		
Balance as of December 31, 2023		\$11,371.90
Breakdown:		
Balance in General Fund		\$7,661.62
Min. Retirement Fund		\$1,110.28
National Dues		\$2,600.00
Total in Checking Acct		\$11,371.90

The offering totaled \$300.00. M/S/C

M/S/C to adjourn the business session.

Sister Denise Glover sang two special songs, "I Claim the Blood," and "My Jesus, My Savior."

Rev. Larry Mullis preached from Romans 13 and 14.

At the end of the service special prayer was offered for Rev. Jacob Martin for his health concerns. Rev. Adams led in prayer.

Respectfully Submitted:

Dr. Billy Sharpston, Moderator

Rev. Clint Adams, Clerk

2nd Quarterly Meeting
Georgia Union Minutes
April 13th, 2024
Little Bethel Free Will Baptist Church

On April 13th, 2024, the Georgia Union Association of Free Will Baptists met in Chester, Georgia, at Little Bethel Free Will Baptist Church. Prayer was offered by Dr. Billy Sharpston. The congregation sang "Glory To His Name." Brother Tommy Parker gave a devotional from Acts 22:7-8. Moderator, Dr. Billy Sharpston, called the meeting to order.

M/S/C to adopt the program with necessary changes.

The roll was called with 9 ministers, delegates totaling 13, and 4(?) deacons being recognized, giving a total voting body of 26. M/S/C to seat delegates.

Report of Committees:

Executive Board: Rev. Clint Adams, Clerk

The Board has the following two recommendations:

1. Rising vote of thanks be given to Little Bethel Free Will Baptist Church for hosting the association.
2. Today's offering goes to the Alabama Children's Home.

M/S/C

Ordaining Board Report: Rev. Craig Minor - Chairman
Rev. Craig Minor honored Rev. David Amburgey for coming into the association in the past, and as well Rev. Johnny Lewis who was not

present today. A possible ministers meeting will begin for fellowship maybe once per month. M/S/C

Mission Board: Rev. David Amburgey - Chairman

The Mission Board has \$29,042.71 in total funds. Five churches gave in January and four in February and March. If you are not giving, please consider. We need to pray for workers. Awaken Church in Tifton is averaging over 200 in attendance. M/S/C

State Camp Representative: Rev. Clint Adams

Teen Camp this year called “Camp Remnant” and will be hosted from My 28th to June 1st at White Water Ocoee, Tn. Early bird registration is by May 1st, and will be \$225 (\$275). A Junior camp will be at Lake Seminole State Park in Donalsonville, GA, from June 24th to 27th. Registration fee is \$100 if postmarked by June 3rd; the fee raises to \$120 after that. M/S/C

Christian Education Board: Rev. Jacob Martin - Chairman

Revival meeting is scheduled for Sunday evening, October 13th through Tuesday the 15th with Double Branch hosting. Sunday evening service will begin at 6:00 pm, with Monday and Tuesday night services at 7:00 pm. Brother Tim York will be preaching the meeting, as well as preaching the association meeting on Saturday, October 12th, at New Hope. M/S/C

Trustee Board: Bro. Gene Collins – Chairman

No Report.

Digest Committee Report: Bro. Gene Collins

Churches reporting were 13, 3 members added, 0 members lost, with a net gain of 3, and 5 baptized, with total offerings of \$147,120.10. M/S/C. These numbers include information which was turned in late.

Treasurer's Report: Sister Donna Jewell, Treasurer

Ending Balance as of 3/31/2024		\$11,371.90
Deposits (1 st Quarter 2024)		+ \$1,005.00
Ministers' Retirement (\$80.00)		
Quarterly Dues (\$625.00)		
Offering (\$300.00) (Ministers' Retirement)		

		\$12,376.90
Disbursements (1 st Quarter 2024)		- \$3,760.38
Ministers' Retirement (\$500.00)		
Moderator/Clerk Fees (\$200.00)		
GSAFWB for National Dues (\$2,600.00)		
Board Meeting Mileage (4 th Quarter) (\$91.00)		
GSAFWB Dues (\$75.00)		
Minute Books (\$264.88)		
Annual Sec. State Registration Fee (\$30.00)		
Balance as of March 31, 2024		\$8,616.52
Breakdown:		
Balance in General Fund		\$7,626.24
Min. Retirement Fund		\$990.28
Total in Checking Acct		\$8,616.52

Total dues were \$625.00. The offering was \$270.00. M/S/C

M/S/C to adjourn the business session.

The congregation sang, "Victory in Jesus."

Special music was sung, the songs being, "Tempted and Tried," and "Sheltered in the Arms of God."

Dr. Billy Sharpston preached from Romans 12:9-13 on the believer and other believers.

Respectfully Submitted:
Dr. Billy Sharpston, Moderator
Rev. Clint Adams, Clerk

3rd Quarterly Meeting
Georgia Union Minutes
July 13th, 2024
Mt. Ararat Free Will Baptist Church

The Georgia Union Association of Free Will Baptists met in Eastman, Georgia, on July 13th, 2024, at Mt. Ararat Free Will Baptist Church. Rev. Grover Jewell prayed. The congregation sang "In Christ Alone." We were welcomed by Rev. Roy Woods and he mentioned how the building where Mt. Ararat meets had gone through a remodel. A devotional was given by Brother Warren Holts from Acts 8:1-4. Dr. Sharpston, the Moderator, called the meeting to order.

M/S/C to adopt the program with necessary changes.

The roll was called with 12 ministers, 8 deacons, and delegates totaling 31, giving a total voting body of 51. M/S/C to seat delegates.

Report of Committees:

Executive Board: Rev. Clint Adams, Clerk

The Executive Board has the following two recommendations:

1. That today's offering go to the Minister's Retirement. M/S/C
2. That we give a rising vote of thanks to Mt. Ararat Free Will Baptist Church for hosting the association. M/S/C

Ordaining Board Report: Rev. Craig Minor - Chairman

For information: in the next few months the chairman expects the board to look over two or three items, but nothing to report at this time.

Mission Board: Rev. David Amburgey - Chairman

The mission board has a total of \$31, 212.26 in its account. They have not had any meetings recently, both locally and as a State. There has been no real reason to meet on a local level. The State Mission Board needs to elect a Chairman because Rev. Rick Cason has become the new promotional director for Georgia. The State should meet before our next Association in October. Rev. Amburgey mentioned the work at Tifton. M/S/C

State Camp Representative: Rev. Clint Adams

"Camp Remnant" took place from May 28th to June 1st at White Water Ocoee, Tn. The camp had a total of 157 in attendance, and had 9 churches represented. M/S/C

Christian Education Board: Rev. Jacob Martin - Chairman
The revival meeting is scheduled for Sunday evening, October 13th through Tuesday the 15th with Double Branch hosting. Sunday evening service will begin at 6:00 pm, with Monday and Tuesday night services at 7:00 pm. Brother Tim York, who is the National Moderator, will be preaching the meeting. There will be special singing each night at the revival meeting. Asking the Churches to give \$100.00 toward the revival meeting. M/S/C

Trustee Board: Bro. Gene Collins – Chairman
No Report.

Digest Committee Report: Bro. Gene Collins
We had 12 Churches reporting, with 8 baptized, 8 members added, 2 members lost, with a net gain of 6, with total offerings of \$193,036.91. M/S/C.

Treasurer’s Report: Sister Donna Jewell, Treasurer

Ending Balance as of 6/30/2024		\$8,616.52
Deposits (2 nd Quarter 2024)		+ \$4,322.23
Ministers’ Retirement (\$45.00)		
Quarterly Dues (\$625.00)		
Offering (\$270.00) (To Ministers’ Retirement Fund)		
Deposit Balance from Camp Board – SunMark (\$3,382.23)		
		\$12,938.75
Disbursements (2 nd Quarter 2024)		- \$1,402.54
Ministers’ Retirement (\$500.00)		
Moderator/Clerk Fees (\$200.00)		
Reimburse Jacob Martin for October Revival Speaker Hotel (\$493.54)		
Board Meeting Mileage (\$209.00)		
Balance as of June 30, 2024		\$11,536.21
Breakdown:		
Balance in General Fund		\$10,730.93
Min. Retirement Fund		\$805.28

Total in Checking Acct		\$11,536.21
------------------------	--	-------------

Offering total was \$488.00. M/S/C

M/S/C to adjourn the business session.

The congregation sang, "Little is Much."

A special song, "Ancient Words," was sung.

Rev. Chris Sargent and wife, Tori, gave an update on their work. After, Rev. Sargent preached. A text preached from was the passage found in Matthew 22:36-39.

Respectfully Submitted:
Dr. Billy Sharpston, Moderator
Rev. Clint Adams, Clerk

Annual Meeting Georgia Union Minutes October 12th, 2024 New Hope Free Will Baptist Church

On October 12th, 2024, the Georgia Union Association of Free Will Baptists met in Cochran, Georgia, at New Hope Free Will Baptist Church. Rev. Craig Minor prayed. A devotion was given by Rev. Trent Dykes from Luke 21:1-4 on "Giving It All." Moderator, Dr. Sharpston, called the meeting to order.

M/S/C to adopt the program with necessary changes.

The roll was called with a total voting body of 33, with 12 ministers, 7 deacons, and 14 delegates. M/S/C to seat delegates.

Report of Committees:

Executive Board: Rev. Clint Adams, Clerk

The Executive Board has the following two recommendations:

1. That we give a rising vote of thanks to New Hope Free Will Baptist Church for hosting the association and providing a meal. M/S/C

2. That today’s offering goes to the Alabama Children’s Home.
M/S/C

Ordaining Board Report: Rev. Craig Minor - Chairman
The ordaining board report was moved to later in the meeting. The Ordaining Board had the pleasure of meeting with two men. Two ministers were put under watch care and licensed by the association, brother Landon Dykes from New Hope and brother Josphe White from First Eastman. All was satisfactory in the examination. The Chairman and Brother Trent Dykes had been in conversations for about a year on him coming back to the Association. Brother Dykes credentials were reinstated. M/S/C

Mission Board: Rev. David Amburgey - Chairman
The mission board has a total of \$36,113.91. This amount includes \$3,383.23 from the closing of the Camp Board account. M/S/C

State Camp Representative: Rev. Clint Adams
No report.

Christian Education Board: Rev. Jacob Martin - Chairman
The revival meeting will begin Sunday evening and go through Tuesday night. Double Branch is hosting. Sunday evening service will begin at 6:00 pm, with Monday and Tuesday night services at 7:00 pm. Brother Tim York, who is the National Moderator, will be preaching the meeting. There will be special singing each night at the revival meeting. M/S/C

Trustee Board: Bro. Gene Collins – Chairman
No Report.

Digest Committee Report: Bro. Gene Collins
For the quarterly report, 12 Churches reported, 8 members added, 3 members lost, and 6 baptized, with a net gain of 5, with total offerings of \$199,742.48. The annual reporting saw 11 Churches report, 25 members added, 4 lost, with a net gain of 21, and 15 baptized. Annual offerings reported were \$761,258.00. M/S/C.

Treasurer’s Report: Sister Donna Jewell, Treasurer

Ending Balance as of 6/30/2024		\$11,630.21

Deposits (3 rd Quarter 2024)		+ \$1,653.50
Ministers' Retirement (\$155.20)		
Quarterly Dues (\$710.00)		
July Offering (\$488.00) (To Ministers' Retirement Fund)		
Fall Revival Meeting Church Offerings (300.00)		
		\$13,283.71
Disbursements (3 rd Quarter 2024)		- \$4,597.66
Ministers' Retirement (\$500.00)		
Moderator/Clerk Fees (\$200.00)		
GU Mission Board (balance of funds from Camp Board \$3,382.23)		
Board Meeting Mileage (2 nd and 3 rd Quarters) (\$478.00)		
New Checks Ordered (\$39.43)		
Balance as of September 30, 2024		\$8,686.05
Breakdown:		
Balance in General Fund		\$7,762.27
Min. Retirement Fund		\$923.78
Total in Checking Acct		\$8,686.05

Offering total was \$400.00. M/S/C

Nominating Committee

Wendy Martin remained Assistant Treasurer. For the Trustee Board Josph Boyd replaced Tony Howell (Rev. Howell declined to replace himself and brother Boyd graciously volunteered to take his place). Craig Minor remained on the Ordaining Board. All members of the Mission Board remained on: Tommy Parker, Roy Woods, Sue Lindsey, Craig Minor, T.R. Fountain, and David Amburgey. For the Christian Education Board Larry Mullis, Gene Collins, Harold Dunaway, and Jacob Martin remained. M/S/C

The congregation sang "I'm in the glory land way" after the Christian Education report.

M/S/C to adjourn the business session.

Dr. Tim York preached a powerful message from 1 Timothy, beginning at chapter 3 verse 1. He preached on the Pastor's Heart.

Respectfully Submitted:
Dr. Billy Sharpston, Moderator
Rev. Clint Adams, Clerk

Constitution and By-Laws

Georgia Union Association of Free Will Baptists, Inc.

(Revised 1980; 1/81; 4/82; 4/89; 1/90; 6/91; 10/92; 10/93; 10/95; 10/97;
6/98; 4/99; 1/00; 4/00; 10/00; 10/12; 1/15; 10/15; 7/18; 10/20)

ARTICLE 1: Name and Affiliation

Section 1. Name. This Association shall be known as the Georgia Union Association of Free Will Baptist, Inc. (this "Association").

Section 2. Affiliation. This Association and its member churches adopt the Treatise of Faith and Practices of the National Association of Free Will Baptists, adopted by the National Association of Free Will Baptists, Inc. on November 7, 1935, at Nashville, Tennessee, and its revisions dated 1948, 1956, 1958, 1969, 1973, 1974, 1977, 1979, 1981, 1992, 1996, 2001, 2004, 2005, 2007, 2008, 2010, and any and all future revisions (the Treatise"), which is on file at the offices of the National Association of Free Will Baptists, Inc., at 5233 Mt. View Road, Antioch 37013. The Treatise is by this reference incorporated herein and made a part hereof.

ARTICLE 2: Member Churches

(a) Any well-organized Free Will Baptist Church or Mission conveniently located to the majority of the member churches may apply for membership in this Association. The applicant church or mission must conform to the Treatise, and any further requirements established by this Association.

(b) The Executive Board (defined below) shall investigate and submit their recommendation to this Association before any church or mission can be accepted into this Association.

(c) This Association may discipline member churches or missions, if labor proves unsuccessful, by exclusion or withdrawing fellowship.

However, in no case can this Association reverse the church's or mission's decisions, nor interfere with any of their internal regulations.

(d) A two-thirds majority vote of the voting delegates of this Association is required for acceptance or exclusion of any church or mission.

(e) Ministers, deacons, officers, committee and board members in good standing shall be standing delegates to this Association and shall duly attend each quarterly conference.

(f) Each church or mission shall be entitled to the following delegates with full voting privileges: 50 members or below - 3 delegates; over 50 members - 3 delegates, plus 2 for each 50 members or fraction thereof.

(g) The Association fee for each meeting shall be:

<u>Members</u>	<u>Fee</u>	<u>Members</u>	<u>Fee</u>	<u>Members</u>	<u>Fee</u>
1-25	\$35	26-50	\$40	51-75	\$45
76-100	\$50	101-125	\$55	126-150	\$60
Over 150: \$70 plus \$5 for every 25 members over 150.					

(h) The National Fee of \$200.00 per member church is payable prior to the National Convention in July of each year.

(I) This Association shall adopt a Budget at the Annual Conference in October of each year, which budget shall be proposed by the Executive Board. The annual budget shall become effective January 1 of the following year.

ARTICLE 3: Officers

(a) The Officers of this Association shall consist of: Moderator, Assistant Moderator, Clerk, Assistant Clerk, Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer (the "Officers"), and shall be elected by a majority vote of eligible voting delegates at the Annual Conference in October, or at any other regular quarterly conference if an office becomes vacant before such officer's term expires. Officers shall service two-year terms, with tenure beginning immediately at the close of the October session.

(b) The Moderator shall preside over each Quarterly Conference according to established parliamentary usage. It shall be his duty to see that all business is carried on in a way pleasing to God. The moderator is chairman of the Executive Board and shall call this Board into session as needed. The moderator is an ex-officio member of all committees and boards of this Association, as needed. He shall be the official representative of this Association.

(c) The Clerk shall keep accurate records and minutes of each Quarterly Conference and Executive Board meeting. The Clerk shall prepare the minutes for publication in the Annual Minute Book and see that they are

printed and available for distribution at the January session. The Clerk is responsible for all the correspondence and records of this Association.

(d) The Treasurer shall receive and disburse all funds as directed by this Association. The Treasurer shall be chairman of the Finance Committee and will submit a financial report to each Conference.

(e) The Assistants to the above officers shall serve in the full capacity of the office when the elected officer is absent or unable to serve.

ARTICLE 4: Executive Board

The Executive Board shall consist of the Moderator, Assistant Moderator, Clerk, Assistant Clerk, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, and Chairpersons of the Trustee Board, Mission Board, Christian Education Board, Camp Board, and Ordaining Board, and one member at large. The Executive Board is the official body of this Association when not in session and is empowered to act on behalf of this Association on matters that, in the judgement of the Executive Board, should not be delayed until the next Quarterly Conference. The Moderator shall be chairman of the Executive Board.

The Executive Board shall have the power to investigate any church or mission belonging to this Association concerning their doctrinal views. Such investigative request(s) must be submitted to the Executive Board in writing and signed by two persons who are members in good standing of a member church.

ARTICLE 5: Boards

A. Ordaining Board.

(i) The Ordaining Board shall consist of five (5) ministers in good standing, elected to five-year terms on a staggered basis.

(ii) Ordaining Board members shall be paid the current IRS mileage rate for work performed between quarterly conferences.

(iii) The Ordaining Board shall investigate and question candidates for licensing or ordination as they deem necessary and as outlined by other regulations adopted by this Association. The Ordaining Board shall have the authority to deal with and investigate discipline issues on a case-by-case basis. All requests for investigations must be submitted in writing and signed by two or more witnesses.

(iv) No candidate for licensing or ordination may come to this Association for a vote until the recommendation of the Ordaining Board has been submitted to the Executive Board.

B. Mission Board.

The Mission Board shall consist of five (5) members in good standing, who have a zeal for missions, and shall be elected to 2 year terms on a staggered basis. The Mission Board shall have the general oversight of all missions supported by this Association as outlined in the Constitution of the Mission Board. The Board shall submit a report of activities to this Association during each Quarterly Conference.

C. Christian Education Board

The Christian Education Board shall consist of five (5) members in good standing, and shall be elected to 3 year terms on a staggered basis. The Christian Education Board shall have the general responsibility of all Christian Education endeavors of this Association as outlined in the Constitution of the Christian Education Board. The Christian Education Board shall submit a report of activities to this Association during each Quarterly Conference.

D. Digest Committee

The Digest Committee shall consist of three (3) members in good standing, elected to three-year terms on a staggered basis. The Digest Committee shall compile the information from the church letters submitted by each church at a Quarterly Conference and a report given by the Digest Committee at such Quarterly Conference.

E. Nominating Committee.

The Nominating Committee shall consist of three (3) members in good standing, elected for a term of one year. The Nominating Committee shall submit their recommended nominees at the Annual Conference in October, for all officers, boards and committee members with expired terms. The Nominating Committee should meet as a committee and contact each nominee, if possible, for their approval prior to submitting their names for nomination. Additional nominees may be submitted from the floor by any eligible voting delegate, except members of the Nominating Committee, during the Annual Conference.

F. Finance Committee

The Finance Committee shall consist of the Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer of this Association, and one other member of this Association who is in good standing and who has knowledge of financial matters, and who shall be elected for a term of one year. The Finance Committee shall function at each Quarterly Conference to count all monies and report the results of each financial tally, using appropriately prepared forms for such reports.

G. Temporary Committees.

Temporary committees (such as a resolutions committee) may be appointed as needed during any Quarterly Conference to carry on the

business or to address any prevailing subject of the current times as may be determined by this Association.

The Chairman of the Christian Education, Missions, Camp and Trustee Boards shall be the state representatives on the respective state boards.

Each Board or Committee shall meet immediately after the Annual Conference in October to elect a Chairperson, and shall submit this information to the Clerk.

ARTICLE 6: Quarterly Conferences

(a) This Association shall meet on the Saturday before the second Sunday in January, April, July and October of each year. Conference will begin at 10:00 a.m.

(b) It shall be the duty of each member church or mission to represent themselves at each Quarterly Conference by letter which reports statistics and standings, and by voting delegates. All requests which require the attention of a committee or board must be in writing and submitted to the Clerk.

(c) This Association shall have the power to adopt any regulation or bylaws which will amend the Constitution, which may be deemed essential to the further regulation of this Association.

(d) This Association shall act upon such questions and topics referred to it by its member churches and transact any other business consistent with Constitution or to the practices of the Treatise.

(e) The Executive Board shall be the Program Committee and shall be responsible for the speakers and program outline.

(f) The member churches shall rotate alphabetically in hosting this Association but may ask to be excused for cause.

(g) The parliamentary procedures in this Association shall be governed by Roberts Rules of Order.

ARTICLE 7: Policy Regarding Marriage

The Policy stated below has been duly adopted by the National Association of Free Will Baptist, Inc., the Georgia State Association of Free Will Baptists, Inc. and each member church in the Georgia Union Association of Free Will Baptist, Inc.

“This statement expresses the beliefs of this Association regarding marriage and human sexuality. It is based on the application of Biblical principles to our faith, our life, and our practice, and is in intentional accord

with the Treatise of the Faith and Practices of Free Will Baptists, especially as expressed in the Appendix to Chapter IV, Section 1, as adopted by the National Association of Free Will Baptists (July 2008), of which our Association is a member.

A civil government's sanction of a union will be recognized as a legitimate marriage by this Association only to the extent that it is consistent with the Biblical definition of marriage expressed in this Policy Statement (this "Policy"), which means the marriage between one man and one woman as expressed by God in Genesis 2: 23-25: vs. 23 ***"And Adam said, This is now bone of my bone, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman because she was taken out of Man."*** vs.24: ***"Therefore shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh."*** vs. 25: ***"And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed."***

HUMAN SEXUALITY

This Association follows what the Bible reveals as the "sure foundation" of the teachings of Jesus Christ and his apostles (Mathew 7:24-29; 1 Corinthians 14:37). If the body of this Association is to bear the name **Christian** authentically, we are called to teach and practice these teachings and are not at liberty to depart from them for a different authority. Though we strive to live peaceably with all people and to obey legitimate government authority, if the two come into conflict about matters as foundational as marriage, we must ultimately obey God rather than man (Acts 4:18-21)."

Recognizing that we all struggle with sin, this Association will provide an environment that welcomes people who struggle with sexual sin. We will seek to love all people in Jesus' name, pointing them toward Christ's power to forgive and heal. While the Bible teaches that those who engage in sexual immorality sin against their own bodies, we also recognize that sexual sin is not characterized in Scripture as being more severe than other forms of sin. We will seek God to discern ways that we can directly and indirectly minister and share God's love with those who struggle with every kind of sin. We also recognize that there is a difference between temptation and behavior and that, while temptation is something unavoidable, we are responsible for our behavior.

For Membership in this Association:

- 1 No member(s) of any Church in this Association may enter into a sexual union other than Biblical marriage as defined by this Policy without being subject to discipline within this Association.

- 2 No person practicing a sexual union other than Biblical marriage, as defined by this Policy, will be considered for membership in any church in this Association.

For Our Staff (Ministers):

1. Every minister or other staff member employed by any Church in this Association shall affirm the statement of faith on marriage and human sexuality adopted by this Association.
- 2 Ministers employed by any Church in this Association shall be subject to dismissal and/or loss of ordination for violating this statement of faith on marriage and human sexuality or by officiating at a marriage ceremony that violates the letter or the spirit of this Policy.

Use of Our Facilities of any Church in this Association:

In a general way, and as a result of the religious beliefs described above – beliefs to which we must practice fidelity – it is our policy that the facilities of any of Church in this Association may not be used for any ceremony that in any way approves of, solemnizes, supports, or allows a same-sex union, a polygamous union, or any union that constitutes child abuse. Specific policies that express this include the following:

1. Only those applicants whose marriage is in accord with the Biblical view of marriage expressed in this Policy will be approved for weddings in any facilities of any Church in this Association. In making use of any of the facilities of any Church in this Association, they shall conduct themselves in a manner consistent with this Policy.

2. Only ordained or duly licensed clergy approved by any Church in this Association and conducting themselves in a manner consistent with this Policy shall officiate at marriage ceremonies conducted on any properties of any Church in this Association.

3. **All** our Churches in this Association **shall** decline any application for use of any facilities of any Church in this Association when there are significant concerns that one or both of the applicants may not be qualified to enter into the sacred bond of marriage for theological, doctrinal, moral or legal reasons.

ARTICLE 8: Constitutional Amendments

This Constitution and Bylaws shall not be changed or altered except by two-thirds majority of all eligible voting members present at a Quarterly Conference. All proposed amendments shall be in writing and shall be read during the morning conference, then tabled until afternoon, unless, however, the eligible voting members present vote to suspend such time limit. The amendment can then be removed from the table, read again and acted upon.

No action concerning changes of this Constitution or Bylaws can be taken until all committees are present.

BYLAWS

(Revised 1985; 10/87; 6/91; 1/00; 10/00; 10/15; 4/19)

1. Any eligible voting member, who, in the judgment of this Association, shows anger in discussing any subject, shall forfeit their seat in that Conference.
2. No member shall be at liberty to withdraw without leave of the Moderator.
3. In the absence of the appointed speaker for devotions and messages of each conference, the Moderator shall appoint a substitute. In the absence of the Moderator and Assistant Moderator, the Clerk shall call the session to order and elect a moderator pro-tem for that Conference.
4. All ministers on roll shall attend at least two meetings per year or send a letter or oral message explaining their absence in order to remain in good standing with this Association. Ministers on the Honor Roll are exempt from this requirement.
5. This Association shall open and close each Conference with prayer and praise to God.
6. The Association shall adjourn each Conference by vote and prayer.
7. There shall be a Finance Committee chosen to work with the Treasurer, and report to this Association.
8. The Executive Board shall be in charge of disbursement of the retirement fund for retired ministers.
9. Excess funds from this Association, after all expenses have been paid at the end of each fiscal year, and a reasonable balance maintained, may be distributed to the various boards at the discretion of the Executive Board.
10. Any Minister who is requesting to be added to the association honor roll must be 65 years old.
11. On the occasion of a National, State, or Local event that hinders the regular meeting of the Georgia Union Association, the Georgia

Union Association Executive Board shall have the authority to conduct the business of the association on behalf of the association.

State Camping Board Representative

(Adopted 1/22)

The Georgia Union Association will elect one person from its number to serve on the State Camping Board. This representative will be elected to a five year term.

Constitution and Bylaws of the Christian Education Board

(Revised 1/82; 4/94; 7/95; 6/98; 10/00)

ARTICLE I: NAME

Section 1. The name of this Board shall be the Christian Education Board of the Georgia Union Association.

Section 2. The purpose of this Board shall be to promote and execute all phases of Christian Education set forth in this Constitution and as may be delegated to the Board by the Georgia Union Association.

ARTICLE II: MEMBERS

Section 1. This Board shall consist of five (5) members, three of which may serve to be a quorum. One or two or more shall be laymen.

Section 2. Each Board Member will serve for three years. The first year of the cycle, the terms of two board members shall expire, the second year, the terms of two more board members shall expire, and the third year, the term of one board member shall expire. The cycle will then be repeated.

Section 3. Each member of this Board shall be elected by the Georgia Union Association.

Section 4. Each member of this Board shall show an interest in promoting Christian Education. He shall attend as many meetings as possible and as many functions sponsored by this Board as possible. Failure to do so may result in dismissal from the Board and a replacement sought immediately.

Section 5. This Board shall be responsible for election of its own officers and directors for each of its activities.

ARTICLE III: OFFICERS

Section 1. The officers of this Board shall be a chairman, vice-chairman and a secretary/treasurer, to be elected annually by the Board.

Section 2. The duties of the officers shall be (a) the chairman shall preside over each meeting according to established parliamentary procedures and shall appoint all committees. He shall be an ex-officio member of all committees; (b) the vice-chairman shall serve in the full capacity of the chairman when the chairman is unable to serve; (c) The secretary/treasurer shall keep the minutes of Board meetings, notes of other activities and is responsible for receiving and disbursing all finances as directed by this Board. He shall also make the reports as outlined in Article V.

ARTICLE IV: MEETINGS

Section 1. This Board shall meet often enough to see that its work is carried out effectively.

Section 2. The Board chairman may call special meetings when necessary.

ARTICLE V: REPORTS

This Board shall present a written report at each session of the Association, outlining the Board's immediate activities and future plans.

ARTICLE VI: FINANCES

This Board shall be supported by the quota of finances allotted to it by the Georgia Union Association, gifts from churches, registration fees from workshops, etc., and personal gifts.

ARTICLE VII: ACTIVITIES

Section 1. This Board shall sponsor activities for the Association and its youth as deemed necessary throughout the year.

Section 2. These activities shall be financed with registration fees, offerings or other feasible means.

Section 3. This Board shall sponsor other activities such as retreats, workshops, seminars, teacher training courses, etc., at its discretion.

BYLAWS

1. This Constitution and Bylaws may be amended in any regular session of the Georgia Union Association and by a 2/3rds majority vote provided that the amendment was tabled in the morning session.

2. Board members shall be reimbursed for their meetings to called meetings; other mileage shall be reimbursed at the discretion of the Board.

Constitution and Bylaws of the Georgia Union Mission Board

(Adopted 1975; Revised 1979; 7/81; 10/87; 10/98; 4/01)

PREAMBLE

We, the Georgia Union Association of the Original Free Will Baptists, do ordain this Constitution and Bylaws for the purpose of promoting all missions endeavors of the Georgia Union Association

ARTICLE I

NAME: This organization shall be known as the Georgia Union Board of Missions of the Original Free Will Baptists.

ARTICLE II

MEMBERS: This Board shall be composed of five (5) members. (Members to be elected for a two (2) year period alternating by electing two (2) one year and three (3) the next year so as not to have an all new board at any time.) Each member must be a member in good standing with the church that is a member in good standing with the Georgia Union Association. If any member is employed by the Board or is called to work with or pastor a Mission or Mission Church supported by the Board, he will make this known to this Association and relinquish his position on the Mission Board. Members are elected at the discretion of the Association.

ARTICLE III

OFFICERS: Officers of this Board shall be Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer, elected annually.

ARTICLE IV

MEETINGS: This Board shall hold four (4) regular meetings each year, to be decided by the Board and meetings when necessary to be called by the Chairman.

ARTICLE V

COMMITTEES: Committees shall be appointed by the Board or its Chairman as needs arise who would demand the work of a committee.

ARTICLE VI

REPORTS: Section 1. This Board should report annually to the Georgia Union Association, giving account of all funds received and disbursed and activities of the Board during this year and state the objectives and future plans for the following year.

Section 2. The Secretary and Treasurer serving on the Mission Board shall submit written reports to the Board members as often as the Board may deem necessary. Also, reports shall be submitted through our state publications as often as may be deemed necessary by the Board.

ARTICLE VII

FINANCE: This Board shall be supported by special offerings, Church and personal gifts.

ARTICLE VIII

Section 1. **MISSIONS.** (A) Missions receiving help from this Board must either be established or accepted by this Board.

(B) This Board shall have authority over said mission in all matters in regard to calling a pastor and overseeing the mission work until such mission becomes a church.

(i) The Board reserves the right, in consultation with the mission, to regulate and reconcile the financial disbursements of any and all of the mission churches under its sponsorship with a view of helping these groups to remain financially solvent.

(ii) Neither the mission church nor the missionary shall incur any major indebtedness requiring monthly payments involving the work other than ordinary accounts, such as utilities, church supplies (literature, cleaning supplies, etc.), without written consent of the Board.

(iii) Neither the mission church nor the missionary shall involve themselves in site location or land purchase until the Board has first been notified of such intentions and has inspected and approved the proposed site or land purchase.

(iv) Any real estate of whatsoever type or style available and to be purchased, rented, leased or otherwise contracted for must first be approved by the Board. Final approval must be given by the Georgia Union Association of Free Will Baptists in session with all titles and deeds or lease agreements being made in the name of the Georgia Union Association of Free Will Baptists.

(v) Land purchases authorized by the Board and made in the name of the Board will be financed in a manner approved by the Board. Any appeals for funds with which to make such purchase shall be under the auspices and in the name of the Board for and in behalf of the mission church.

(vi) Title to any real property purchased for a mission church under the sponsorship of the Board shall be retained by the Board until such time as the mission church is organized into a bona-fide Free Will Baptist Church and is operating on a self-sustaining basis. At any time title will be transferred to the church, said title shall contain a revision clause as follows: “If _____ Free Will Baptist Church, located at _____, ever ceases for any reason(s) whatsoever to operate and function as a Free Will Baptist Church or pull themselves out of the Georgia Union Association, this property, with all the appurtenances thereto affixed and belonging, shall revert to the Board of Missions of the Georgia Union Association of Free Will Baptists.”

(vii) All missions must comply with Article VIII (1) (A) and signed by the pastor and clerk, as follows:

“We agree to abide by these guidelines:

Signed:

Mission Pastor
Mission Clerk
Board Chairman
Board Clerk”

(C) Inasmuch as responsive assistance and supervision both to the mission and from the Association is essential for successful mission work, the following counties shall be designated as the home missions field for this Mission Board: Bibb, Peach, Twiggs, Wilkinson, Laurens, Bleckley, Houston, Macon, Dooly, Pulaski, Dodge, Wheeler, Telfair, Wilcox, Crisp, and any additional counties as deemed expedient by the Mission Board and accepted by this Association.

Section 2. CHURCHES. (A) Any church receiving financial aid must accept such on conditions agreed upon by the Board and the Church.

(B) Any church finding itself unable to operate as such, may request mission status, or mission church status.

ARTICLE IX

STATUS. When the congregation has reached a stage where they desire to organize into a church, it shall request said status upon completion of an examination by the Georgia Union Association Executive Board using guidelines as set forth by the Georgia State Association of Free Will Baptists for mission churches.

BYLAWS

DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 1. CHAIRMAN. The Chairman shall preside over each meeting, preserve order, govern the body accordingly to established parliamentary usage, and appoint all temporary committees. He shall have the right to call meetings when it is necessary and where.

Section 2. VICE CHAIRMAN. It shall be the duty of the Vice Chairman to serve in the full capacity of the Chairman when the Chairman is absent.

Section 3. SECRETARY AND TREASURER. The Secretary shall keep an accurate record of all transactions and Board meetings and preserve the same, keep all valuable documents and surrender same to his successor in office, send out a report of the work of the Board as often as the Board requires. All funds shall be held and disbursed by the Treasurer at the approval of the Board.

Section 4. EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS. The Chairman shall be an ex-officio member of all committees.

ARTICLE I

QUORUM: Three (3) members will compose a quorum. Voting is restricted to members or their proxies.

ARTICLE II

AMENDMENTS: This Constitution and Bylaws may be amended by two-thirds vote of the membership of the Georgia Union Association while in session.

The Constitution and By-laws of the Ordaining Board of The Georgia Union Association of Free Will Baptists

(Adopted July 2001) (Revised Jan. 2002)

Article I

The Name and Purpose

Section 1. The name of this Board shall be the Ordaining Board of the Georgia Union Association of Free Will Baptists.

Section 2. The purpose of the Ordaining Board shall be threefold:

The first purpose of the Ordaining Board shall be the furtherance of the message of salvation through Jesus Christ through the licensing, guidance, and ordaining of men who have answered God's call to preach the Gospel to the world.

The second purpose is to provide watch care over all ministers in the Association, concerning both their good standing in the association and their faithful adherence to the tenets of the faith and doctrines of the Word of God, as expressed and held by Georgia Union Free Will Baptists in The Treatise of Faith and Practices of the National Association of Free Will Baptists.

The third purpose of this Board is to promote a good and cooperative spirit among all the ministers in the Association.

Article II

Responsibilities of the Ordaining Board

Section 1. The first responsibility of this Board shall be to investigate, examine, and make recommendations to the Georgia Union Association, concerning applicants who desire to be licensed and/or ordained to preach the Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Section 2. The second responsibility of this Board is to examine and make recommendations to the Georgia Union Association concerning the acceptance of ministers who transfer into our association, into one of our churches as a pastor or in a similar position, and who are coming from other Free Will Baptist church associations or from other denominations. Established questionnaires and guidelines shall be used in all cases.

Section 3. The third responsibility of this Board shall be to investigate and make recommendations to the association concerning the retaining of ministerial credentials and the disciplining of ministers because of immoral conduct or their holding of doctrinal beliefs contrary to the treatise of the National Association of Free Will Baptists, as held to by this Association. All requests for investigation of conduct must be submitted in writing and signed, with two or more witnesses.

The Board shall have the authority to thoroughly question a minister about doctrinal issues when such questions arise and make recommendations to the Association when their investigation is finished.

Section 4. The fourth responsibility of this Board shall be the oversight of our associational rules for good standing and the giving of recommendations to the Association regarding ministers within our association, who violate those associational rules for good standing.

Section 5. The fifth responsibility of this Board shall be the establishment of guidelines that govern doctrinal purity and proper ministerial conduct.

Article III

Members of the Ordaining Board

Section 1. Members of this Board shall consist of five ministers in good standing elected in regular session by the Georgia Union Association.

Section 2. Board members shall be elected for a five-year term with one member of the Board rotating off the Board each year.

Section 3. Board members are expected to faithfully attend Board meetings.

Section 4. Board members shall be reimbursed at the current mileage rate of the IRS for their attendance at Board meetings.

Article IV

Officers of the Ordaining Board

Section 1. Officers. The officers of this Board shall be Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Secretary.

Section 2. Election of Officers. Each officer shall be elected annually by the Board at the close of the October Annual Meeting of the Georgia Union Association.

Section 3. Duties of the Officers. The duties of the officers shall be:

The Chairman shall preside over each meeting, following parliamentary procedures established in Roberts Rules of Order, and shall be responsible for a written report to the Georgia Union Association each quarter.

2. The Vice-Chairman shall act as Chairman when the Chairman is unavailable.

3. The Secretary shall keep written minutes of all Board meetings.

Article V

The Meetings of the Ordaining Board

Section 1. This Board shall meet at least once each quarter.

Section 2. The time and place of the first Board meeting of the next quarter shall be announced at each Associational meeting and included in the Board's report.

Section 3. The attendance of three members shall constitute a quorum.

Article VI

Reports of the Ordaining Board

Section 1. Written reports of the Ordaining Board shall be given at each Georgia Union Associational Quarterly meeting, preferably by the Chairman.

Section 2. The quarterly report shall contain the following items:

1. Recommendations from the Board to the Georgia Union Association.

2. A brief summary of the Board's activities during the preceding quarter.

Section 3. A minority report shall be submitted on all recommendations that are not unanimous.

Article VII

Associational Bylaws of the Ordaining Board

Section 1. Rules for the Licensing of Ministers.

1. Applicant must be a member of the church recommending him, and if applicant is coming from another denomination or association, he shall be a member of the church recommending him for not less than three (3) months from the date of receiving the letter stating that he is in good standing with the church, denomination and association that he is leaving.

2. Applicant shall complete "The Georgia Union Association Application for Licensing of Ministers" and return it to the chairman of the Ordaining Board prior to the Ordaining Board meeting. The Ordaining Board shall study all applications for licensing before their meeting and then examine the candidate at their meeting. The Ordaining Board shall make a recommendation to the Georgia Union Association concerning each candidate for licensing. If approved by the Association, the candidate's local church shall issue him a license valid for one year. The candidate's license shall be renewed each year, providing his local church has recommended renewal of his license, the Ordaining Board examines the licensee and recommends renewal, and the Association votes approval.

3. Approved license shall carry the names of the pastor, clerk, and church issuing the license.

4. Applicant shall meet the qualifications as laid down in the Scripture of the Old and New Testaments, measure up to the standards of The Treatise of the National Association of Free Will Baptists and our Church Covenant, which have been adopted by this body.

5. No applicant for license to the ministry will be eligible for license if he or his wife has more than one living husband or wife. Paul's statement in 1 Timothy 3:2, and Titus 1:6, namely, "the husband of one wife", is to be looked upon as making ineligible as ministers...anyone who has been divorced and remarried, regardless of the cause of the divorce or the guilt or the innocence of either partner...that said persons, whose marital state disqualifies them to be ministers...not be discouraged in their Christian lives or Christian service but that they be encouraged to live faithfully for Christ and serve Him.

6. Upon receipt of a minister's license, which is renewable annually, it is required that each licensee complete the following items which are to be considered a part of the examining criteria as indicated in paragraph 2:

- a. Read "A Free Will Baptist Handbook" by Matthew Pinson, "Faith for Today" by Dr. J.D. O'Donnell, and "What the Bible Says About Tongues", by Robert E. Picirilli, which will be provided by the Association.
- b. Read "A Treatise of Faith and Practices of the Original Free Will Baptists" with current revisions.
- c. Be prepared to discuss personal habits and concern for:
 - (i) Church and personal visitation; (ii) Soul winning efforts and results; (iii) Personal Bible study; and (iv) Sermon preparation.

Section 2. Rules for Calling Pastors.

1. Each church should familiarize themselves with the rules for licensing of ministers and ask the candidate the same questions even though he may or may not be coming for license. If a member of another association, the pastor should indicate that he is in good standing. The degree of investigation of the candidate is left to the church's discretion. Each church should be mindful of the standards of this Association for the good of the body.
2. No pastor of a church or mission in this Association can hold license or ordination papers from another denomination and be in good standing with this body. Any candidate coming to this Association from another denomination shall be placed under the watch care of this denomination and the church he is pastor of for twelve (12) months. All other license or ordination papers must be turned over to this Association and the clerk may destroy them or return them to the denomination from which they were issued.
3. All ministers desiring to transfer or join this Association shall:
 - a. Be recommended to this Association in writing by one of our member churches or missions. All ministers from any Free Will Baptist Association coming into this Association shall complete the questionnaire of the Georgia Union Ordaining Board and return the completed questionnaire to the Chairman of the Ordaining Board, two weeks in advance of its meeting date. All licensees and those desiring to be ordained must submit their completed State Ordaining Questionnaire to the Chairman of the Ordaining Board, two weeks before the meeting of the Ordaining Board. The date and place of the Ordaining Board meeting is to be announced at each quarterly Georgia Union Association meeting. Questionnaires may be obtained from the Chairman of the Ordaining Board or from the Clerk of the Georgia Union Association."
 - b. The candidate shall meet with the Ordaining Board. No candidate for membership in this Association may come to this body for a vote until the recommendation of the Ordaining Board is submitted.
 - c. If there are any questions concerning the candidate's doctrine or character, the Association may open the examination to the majority present at the Association. The church recommending the candidate, or any member person, should make known any questions that should be considered.
 - d. Transferring ministers shall be under the watch care of this body until a letter of good standing is received from his previous association. The Association Clerk must request in writing a letter of good standing from the association that said minister is transferring from.
 - e. It is the responsibility of the church or mission calling a pastor to inform him of the requirements of this Association.

Section 3. Rules for the Ordination of Ministers.

1. Applicant shall bear license for not less than one year and shall be recommended to the quarterly Association by the church of which he is a member.
2. Be called to one or more churches, except that evidence be shown whereas the applicant can be useful in evangelistic work.
3. Applicant shall be examined by the Ordaining Board, who having been duly elected by this Association to which they hold membership. Examination shall be held at the discretion of the Ordaining Board.
4. Applicant shall meet the qualifications as laid down in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments and measure up to the standards of Free Will Baptists and our Church Covenant, which have been adopted by this body. The pastor and his family are strongly admonished to uphold the standards of the Word of God by being faithful in attendance on the Lord's Day.
5. No applicant for ordination into the ministry will be eligible for ordination if he or his wife has more than one living husband or wife. Paul's statement in 1 Timothy 3:2 and Titus 1:6, namely, "the husband of one wife", is to be looked upon as making ineligible as ministers...anyone who has been divorced and remarried, regardless of the cause of the divorce or the guilt or the innocence of either partner...that said persons, whose marital status disqualifies them to be ministers...not be discouraged in their Christian lives or Christian service but that they be encouraged to live faithfully for Christ and serve Him.
6. The credentials of any minister who joins in membership with a church of another denomination shall be considered null and void. The minister shall voluntarily return his credentials to the Georgia Union Association Clerk. If he does not, the Association Clerk shall send a letter, certified mail, return receipt requested, notifying such minister that his credentials are null and void, and request him to return his credentials to the Association Clerk. The Clerk shall notify the State Office of the status of such minister's credentials and ask the State Office to place notification in the State Promotional Bulletin of the minister's status.

Section 4. Rules for Ministers.

1. All ministers on roll, licensed or ordained, must be a member of one of the churches or missions in the Georgia Union Association of Free Will Baptists.
2. All ministers on roll, licensed or ordained shall attend at least two associational meetings each year or send a written or oral message to the Associational Clerk, explaining their absence in order to remain in good standing with this Association. Ministers on honor roll are exempt from this requirement.
3. Good standing is hereby defined as:

- a. Having the privilege to pastor or hold a ministerial position in a church or mission in this Association.
- b. Being a standing delegate in this association.

These privileges are revoked when the minister is no longer in good standing, and can only be reinstated with the recommendation of the Ordaining Board and the vote of this Association.

4. A minister, who is no longer in good standing in this association, shall be required to be re-examined by the Ordaining Board of this Association, who shall recommend to the association, whether or not the minister is to be placed back on the roll of ministers in good standing. The Association shall vote to accept or reject the recommendation of the Ordaining Board.
5. All ministers shall be expected to abide by the beliefs and practices of Free Will Baptists, as defined in the Treatise of the Faith and Practices of Free Will Baptists, and shall be expected to turn in their credentials of ordination, when they no longer hold to Free Will Baptist doctrines and beliefs.
6. All ministers are expected to submit to the decision of the association and relinquish their credentials of ordination if they are called for by this association of churches.

Section 5. Discipline Procedures of Ministers For Lack Of Attendance at Association Meetings.

The following procedures shall be followed when a minister reaches the point of being in danger of losing his good standing in the Association, because of lack of attendance:

1. The associational clerk shall notify the minister, the clerk of his church, and the Chairman of the Ordaining Board, in writing of the minister's failure to keep the associational attendance requirement, and that his good standing is in danger of being suspended in the Association.
2. The Chairman of the Ordaining Board shall notify the minister in writing, of the date and time of the next Ordaining Board meeting, where his attendance will be required. The Ordaining Board will determine at that meeting, what if any, further action, is required.
3. If the Ordaining Board, after examining the minister, is satisfied with his answers, and the minister agrees to comply with the attendance requirements, no further action will be necessary. If not, the Ordaining Board will make a recommendation to the Association that the minister is considered to be out of good standing.
4. If the minister continues out of good standing in the Association, for two more quarters, refusing to abide by the attendance requirement, the Ordaining Board shall make a recommendation to the Association, that the minister's credentials be revoked.
5. Any minister, whose credentials have been revoked, must be reexamined by the Ordaining Board, as if he had never been considered by this Association.

Article VIII

Constitutional Changes

Amendments: This Constitution and Bylaws may be amended by two-thirds vote of the membership of the Georgia Union Association while in session.

Constitution of The Trustee Board of The Georgia Union Association of Free Will Baptists

(Adopted April 8, 2006) (Revised April 7, 2007)

Article I

The Name

The name of this Board shall be the Trustee Board of the Georgia Union Association of Free Will Baptists.

Article II

The Purpose

The Board of Trustees shall have general charge of all real and personal property (the Property") belonging to, or in the name of, the Georgia Union Association, and shall assume full responsibility of said Property, including, but not limited to, holding deeds; maintenance; upkeep; and/or disposition of said Property, and shall make sure such Property is adequately insured. (The Georgia Union treasurer has possession of the Association's insurance policy.) All decisions regarding the purchase and/or sale of any Property must be presented to and approved by a majority vote of the Georgia Union Association while in session.

Article III

Members of the Trustee Board

Section 1. This Board shall be composed of five (5) members.

Section 2. Board members shall serve five-year terms on a staggered basis, with one member rotating off each year.

Section 3. Each member shall be elected by the members of this association in regular session.

Section 4. This Board shall be responsible for electing its own officers.

Section 5. Board members shall be reimbursed at the current mileage rate of the IRS for their attendance at Board meetings.

Article IV

Quorum

Three (3) members will compose a quorum. Voting is restricted to members or their proxies.

Article V

Amendments

This Constitution may be amended by two-thirds vote of the membership of the Georgia Union Association while in session.

Georgia Union Churches

Organized	Church	Pastor	Clerk
1884	Bay Springs	Emory Howell	Mark Driggers
	1302 Bay Springs Ch. Rd.	387 Empire/Chester Hwy	710 Chennault St.
	Eastman, GA 31023	Cochran, GA 31014	Eastman, GA 31023
	478-374-1220	478-298-2644 (C)	478-689-5203
		Wife: Wanda	
1917	Bethlehem	Johnny Lewis	Billy Atkins
	142 Old Coney Rd	187 Old Blackshear Rd	148 Smoak Rd
	M: 148 Smoak Rd.	Cordele, GA 31015	Cordele, GA 31015
	Cordele, GA 31015	229-947-2393	229-406-6635
1887	Christian Hill	Jacob Martin	Janet Gordon
	P: 3037 Christian Hill Rd	256 Daylily Rd	1547 Shady Grove Rd.
	M: 1325 Mitchell Rd	Rochelle, GA 31079	Abbeville, GA 31001
	Rochelle, GA 31079	229-624-2846	229-425-6337
		229-322-7012 (C)	
		Wife: Wendy	
2000	Cornerstone	Grover Jewell	Sandy Hane
	P: 10157 Hwy 341	118 Quinelle Dr.	118 Jackson St.
	Ft. Valley, GA 31030	Perry, GA 31069	Macon, GA 31216
	M: P.O. Box 130	478-972-3603 (C)	317-985-4101
	Perry, GA 31069	478-244-5225 (H)	
		Wife: Donna	
		grover.jewell@yahoo.com	
1910	Crossroads	Donny Stokes	Susan Crooms
	110 Jones Rd.	508 Scarborough-Owens Rd	244 Bass Mullis Smith Rd
	M: 417 Country Club Rd	Eastman, GA 31023	Cochran, GA 31014
	Cochran, GA 31014	478-285-0970	478-308-1726
	478-934-0859		
1896	Double Branch	Clint Adams	Rhonda Sinyard
	2960 Williams Rd	1980 Double Branch Rd.	147 Sinyard Rd
	Unadilla, GA 31901	Hawkinsville, Ga 31036	Hawkinsville, GA 31036
	www.doublebranchchurch.org	478-867-2142	478-230-3610
		Wife: Courtney	
1961	First Eastman	Larry Mullis	Janette Williams
	5830 Sixth Ave	P.O. Box 502	4266 Abbeville Hwy
	Eastman, GA 31023	Eastman, GA 31023	Eastman, GA 31023
		478-374-5156 H	478-231-0625
		478-231-6812 C	
		Wife: Lucy	

1915	Little Bethel	Russell Horne	Carol Rowland
	1275 Rebie Road	276 Vernon Rd	2527 Lord Road
	Chester, GA 31012	Cochran, GA 31014	Dudley, GA 31022
	M: 117 Lonnie Bryant Rd	912-256-4572	478-875-3212
	Cochran, GA 31014	Wife: Rachel	478-697-1291 (C)
	478-934-6048		
1885	Mt. Ararat	Roy L. Woods, Sr.	Elaine Jones
	2100 Chauncey-Rhine Hwy	979 West Hope Ch. Rd	163 Milan-Eastman Rd
	Eastman, GA 31023	Alamo, GA 30411	Eastman, GA 31023
	M: 163 Milan-Eastman Rd, Eastman, GA 31023	229-868-8028 (C)	478-893-2021
		Wife: Shelia	
		RoyWoods912@gmail.com	
1967	New Hope	Trent Dykes	Brook Gore
	139 Free Will Ch. Rd	456 Bowers Cemetery Rd	1435 GA Hwy 126
	Cochran, GA 31014	Cochran, GA 31014	Cochran, GA 31014
		478-230-3876	478-595-1299
1924	Pine Level	David Amburgey	Wanda Tripp
	61 Pine Level Ch. Rd	2482 Ramble Wood Ct	1110 Jack Johnson Rd
	Chester, GA 31012	Acworth, GA 30102	Eastman, GA 31023
		470-298-5360	478-231-0092
		amburgeyd@hotmail.com	
1898	Pleasant Hill		Nita Hobbs
	540 Parker Rd		9465 Hwy 215
	M: 9465 Hwy 215		Vienna, GA 31092
	Vienna, Ga 31092		229-268-6211
	229-268-8746		nitahobbs11@gmail.com
1953	White Oaks		Amanda Collins
	7015 Houston Rd		1051 N. Pine Knoll Dr.
	Macon, GA 31216		Macon, GA 31204
	478-319-7750		478-747-3355
	www.whiteoakschurch.org		

Annual Church Statistics

<u>CHURCH</u>	<u>BAPTISMS</u>	<u>MEMBERS ADDED</u>	<u>MEMBERS LOST</u>	<u>TOTAL MEMBERS</u>	<u>SUNDAY SCHOOL</u>	<u>INCOME</u>
Bay Springs	0	0	0	110	50	\$56,531.55
Bethlehem	0	0	0	59	9	\$32,500.00
Christian Hill						None Reported
Cornerstone	0	4	0	48		\$38,040.00
Crossroads	0	0	1	33		\$34,119.00
Double Branch	1	3	2	265	30	\$123,785.22
First Eastman	0	2	0	28	12	\$19,515.21
Little Bethel	0	4	0	43	14	\$74,002.00
Mt. Ararat	0	0	1	34	18	\$50,429.13
New Hope	14	12	0	127	50	\$179,882.45
Pine Level				43		\$29,366.33
Pleasant Hill	0	0	0	14	14	\$49,624.44
White Oaks						\$102,829.00
Grand Totals	15	25	4	804	197	\$790,624.33

Total Georgia Union Membership: 804

Total Annual Income: \$790,624.33

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 appearance of evil, to abstain from all sinful amusements and unholy conformity to the world, from all sanction of the use and sale of intoxicating beverages, and to "provide things honest in the sight of all men."

We agree faithfully to discharge our obligations in reference to 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 forsake the assembling of ourselves together for church conferences, public worship, and the observance of the ordinances of the Gospel; nor fail to pay according to our ability for the support of the church, of its poor, and all its benevolent work.

We agree to accept Christian admonition and reproof with meekness, and to watch over one another in love, endeavoring to "keep the unity of the Spirit" in the bonds of peace, to be careful of one another's happiness and reputation, and seek to strengthen the weak, encourage the afflicted, admonish the erring, and as far as we are able, 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.