

# MINUTES

OF THE

TWENTY-THIRD ANNUAL SESSION

OF

THE UNITED FREEWILL BAPTISTS

WHICH CONVENED WITH

## ST. PAUL CHURCH

The Twenty-Third

October 20-21, 1948

### OFFICERS

President \_\_\_\_\_ Pastor \_\_\_\_\_  
Vice-President \_\_\_\_\_ Secretary \_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk \_\_\_\_\_ Treasurer \_\_\_\_\_

### Executive Committee

Chairman \_\_\_\_\_ Moderator \_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary \_\_\_\_\_ Treasurer \_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk \_\_\_\_\_ Pastor \_\_\_\_\_  
Vice-President \_\_\_\_\_

These minutes were read and approved by the members of St. Paul Church  
at their regular meeting on Wednesday and Thursday, 1948.  
Witness my hand and the seal of this church this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 1948.

## PROCEEDINGS

Proceedings of the Twenty-Third Annual Session of the Union Association of the Freewill Baptist Association, convening with St. Paul Church, Tift County, Georgia, October 20-21, 1948.

The body was called to order by singing song, title "This World Is Not My Home".

Prayer by Bro. J. H. K. Jones.

Devotional hour spent in prayer and song service.

10 minutes recess.

Reopen by singing song, title "The Way of the Cross Leads Home".

Introductory sermon was preached by Elder J. O. Brumby, Bible Scripture, Isaiah 35; Scripture Text, I Chronicles 28:10, using as a theme "Be Strong". A wonderful message was delivered.

Prayer by Elder C. J. Harvey.

Song, "I'll Fly Away".

Dismissed for lunch by Elder Neal H. Parrish.

Reassemble.

After having been served bountifully with refreshments, the body was called to order by singing Hymn, "Here Am I Send Me", led by M. H. Hinson.

Devotional by Elder C. J. Harvey, Scripture Text, Ephesians 6:10-13.

Prayer by Rev. C. T. Rentz.

Called for church letters and seating delegates. Bro. Charlie Chafin and Elder Neal H. Parrish was appointed to read letters as follows:

Name of church and delegates from each:

Bethlehem: Sister C. T. Rentz, Brother and Sister B. L. Burgess.

Clements Bridge: Gene Bundy, Brother and Sister D. B. Morley.

Greenwood: Sister J. F. Harmon, Brother Louie Lamb.

Midway: Brother A. S. Faison, Brother and Sister James Boyd.

Kenedy Chapel: Sisters Doris Lowry, Susie Surrency, Bro. John Miller.

Spring Hill: Sisters W. C. Collins, J. T. Morey and Hattie Mae Rabun.

St. Paul: Sister J. H. K. Jones, Brother M. H. Hinson and Brother Monroe Justice.

Salem: Brother Borkins.

Thomasville: Sisters B. S. Powell, Lucy Dugger and B. Bodiford.

Inviting visiting brothers to set in our body.

Tallahassee: Brother Allen Sapp.

Call for petitioners—none.

Election of officers:

Elder W. L. Harrell, Omega, Ga., Moderator.

Elder L. A. Norris, Camilla, Ga., Assistant Moderator.

Mrs. J. B. Rice, Moultrie, Ga., Route 4, Clerk.

Election was held by Brothers Charlie Chafin, G. C. King, and Elder Neal H. Parrish.

Vote of thanks from the body was given to retiring Moderator, Elder C. J. Harvey. A letter of recommendation from this Association will be given him to his new Association if asked for.

Called for corresponding delegates and visitors from Sister Associations.

Chattahoochee: G. C. King.

Little River: Charlie Chafin.

Georgia Union: Elders J. B. Langford and Neal H. Parrish.

Georgia State: Elder E. C. Morris.

Motion and carried that Moderator extend to the delegates the right hand fellowship.

Recess: Dismissed by Rev. W. F. Clark.

Reassemble.

Next the appointment of committees.

Devotional: Sisters J. F. Harmon, Hattie Rabun, Brother M. H. Hinson.

Denominational Literature: Sisters Ilene Boyd, W. O. Sumner, Brother Barkins.

Temperance: J. H. K. Jones, James Boyd, A. S. Faison.

Distitutions: Sisters W. O. Sumner, H. E. Morey and Louie Lamb.

Education: Elder L. A. Norris, Sisters J. H. K. Jones, J. F. Harmon.

Ministers: Brothers J. A. Brady, A. S. Faison, Sister C. T. Rentz.

Sunday School: Sisters J. H. K. Jones, Susie Surrency, E. L. Burgess.

Resolutions: Elder L. A. Norris, J. H. K. Jones.

Finance: Sister W. C. Collins, Doris Lowery, Brother B. L. Burgess.

Moved and carried that this body grant a letter to Little River Association in favor of New Jerusalem Church from Union Association. Same to be printed in minutes.

Motion and carried that we table the miscellaneous business and take up regular business.

Move and carried that we adjourn.

Dismissed by Elder J. O. Brumby.

#### EVENING SERVICE

Song service was opened with songs led by M. H. Hinson. Prayer by Elder E. C. Morris.

Song: "Revive Us Again", was sung.

Prayer by Sister J. F. Harmon.

Sermon by Elder Edward Norman. Text Scripture, Rev. 22:1-7. A very inspiring sermon on "Prophecy of God" was given. Dismissed by Elder W. L. Barrow.

#### THURSDAY MORNING—10 O'CLOCK

The body was called to order by Moderator. Song, "More Love to Thee", was sung.

Prayer by J. D. Littles. The devotional was led by Moderator Elder W. L. Harrell, using as scripture reading Psalms 133.

Prayer by Brother Harrell.

Open for business.

Roll called of Ministers and Delegates.

Reports of committees were read and received.

Motion and carried that body recess 10 minutes.

Dismissed by Brother L. O. Lovitt.

Reassemble: Song, "The Eastern Star", was sung.

Sermon by Elder Neal H. Parris, Scripture St. John 3:14-16. Theme "Do Religion".

Report from Elder E. C. Norris, State Promotional Worker on what the Union Association has done toward this work. A collection for this phase of work was taken, amounting to \$25.00.

Song: "I Need Thee Every Hour". Dismissed by Brother Strickland.

Reassemble.

Opening by singing song, "An Empty Man:son".

Prayer by Brother Allen Sapp.

Moderator declared in order for business.

Motion and carried to elect delegates to Sister Association.

Little River: Elder A. L. Sellars.

Chattahoochee: Elder L. A. Norris.

Midway: Elder L. A. Norris.

Georgia Union: Elder A. L. Sellars.

Martin: Elder A. L. Sellars.

North Georgia: Elder W. L. Barrow.

Delegates to State Association appointed by Moderator were: J. H. K. Jones, A. S. Faison, Sister J. F. Harmon.

To National Association were: M. H. Hinson, Mrs. J. B. Rice, alternate.

Motion and carried that we send \$10.00 to State Association.

Dates of Union Meetings of this Association to be held at places stated below:

January: Thomasville Church, Cherokee St., Thomasville, Ga. Sermon preached by Rev. L. S. Anthony.

May: Salem, Monticello, Fla. Sermon preached by Rev. L. A. Norris.

July: Greenwood, Camilla, Ga. Sermon preached by Rev. E. B. Norman.

October: Kennedy Chapel, Pavo, Ga. Sermon preached by Rev. H. W. Keal.

Motion and carried that Moderator appoint a committee to serve as a Association Mission Board. Named below:

J. O. Brumby, Tallahassee, Fla.

J. H. K. Jones, Tifton, Ga.

A. L. Sellars, Quitman, Ga.

C. E. Croft, Berlin, Ga.

Mrs. W. C. Collins, Rt. No. 4, Box 206, Albany, Ga.

Motion and carried that Moderator appoint a member on executive board in place of Brother J. B. Kearns deceased. Brother Allen Sapp, Tallahassee, Fla.

Ordaining Council retained as following:

Elders W. L. Harrell, C. L. Croft, Obie Cone.

A vote of thanks was rendered to the community and church for the great way in which they had entertained the body while in their midst.

Motion and carried that Clerk be paid \$25.00, Moderator \$5 00.

Motion and carried that Association convene with Thomasville Church, Thomasville, Ga., on Wednesday and Thursday after the third Sunday in October, 1949, with Brother E. B. Norman to preach introductory sermon. Brother L. S. Anthony alternate.

Motion and carried that Clerk have 400 Minutes printed.

A freewill offering was taken for Brother Obie Cone and family who is sick.

Motion and carried that the deciding of a field worker be left up to Association Mission Board.

Motion that we adjourn.

Song, "God Be With You".

#### REPORT OF THE COMMITTEES

We, your Committee on Devotional recommend that Brother E. B. Norman preach October 20, 1948, and Elder Neal H. Parrish, Thursday, October 21, with Brother E. B. Norman to preach introductory sermon at next session with Brother L. S. Anthony alternate.

M. H. Hinson, Chairman.

#### COMMITTEE ON TEMPERANCE

We, your committee report as follows:

We are told to be temperate in all things. We should realize that our lives are open books. We should be sober and watch unto prayer. Not to do or say anything that would reflect on our character or influence in the cause of Christ.

J. H. K. Jones, Chairman.

#### COMMITTEE ON SABBATH SCHOOLS

We recommend that every church have a Sunday School and use Freewill Baptist literature. We believe that a good Sunday School is the making of a good church, and believe all teachers ought to be a consecrated Christian.

Susie Surrency, Chairman.

#### COMMITTEE ON RESOLUTIONS

Be it resolved that each church be given a designated amount of money to be brought to Association, worked out on basis per capita of membership of church. That all accusations be brought before the Executive Board in writing of facts and only brought to floor for vote. That each date and place of Union Meetings to be held in year 1949 be placed in Association Minutes. That this Association pay field worker Elder C. J. Harvery, when he has submitted a written report of each trip and place which he has been.

L. A. Norris, Chairman.

#### COMMITTEE ON DESTITUTIONS

We find all churches supplied with pastors.

Mrs. W. C. Collins, Chairman.

#### COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

We, your committee submit the following knowing the great need of Christian Education. We should be careful in what institution we send our children. We should place the right literature before our children in our homes. Training is necessary. Therefore each church needs a Sunday School to teach our youth, that we, as the people of the Union Association support and encourage for our school at Nashville, Tenn.

L. A. Norris, Chairman.

#### COMMITTEE ON MINSTERS

We find all preachers of our Association in good standing as far as we know.

J. A. Brady, Chairman.

#### DENOMINATIONAL LITERATURE COMMITTEE

We recommend all of our churches to use denominational literature. We would like to see Sunday School in all our churches. Also F. W. B. Leagues.

#### REPORT OF FINANCE COMMITTEE FIND

Sent in by Local Churches .....	\$77.05
Balance in Treasury .....	1.59
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	\$78.64

Mrs. W. C. Collins, Chairman.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

Received from Finance Committee .....	\$78.64
Freewill Offering .....	17.36
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Total .....	\$95.00
Paid Moderator .....	\$ 5.00
Paid Clerk and Treasurer .....	25.00
Paid State Association .....	10.00
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	\$40.00
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Balance in Treasury .....	\$55.00
Received from Union Meeting on October 31, 1948 .....	\$10.00
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Total .....	\$65.00

NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF MINISTERS  
ORDAINED

Elder E. B. Norman, 313 E. Walcott .....	Thomasville, Ga.
Elder Obie Cone, Rt. 3 .....	Pavo, Ga.
Elder W. A. Sellars .....	Camilla, Ga.
Elder A. L. Sellars .....	Quitman, Ga.
Elder W. L. Harrell .....	Omega, Ga.
Elder John M. Newton .....	Moultrie, Ga.
Elder C. L. Croft .....	Barney, Ga.
Elder W. F. Clark, 115 Cecil St. ....	Thomasville, Ga.
Elder J. O. Brumby, Rt. 4, Box 770 .....	Tallahassee, Fla.
Elder W. L. Barrow .....	Loyd, Fla.
Elder L. O. Lovitt .....	Lenox, Ga.
Elder C. T. Rentz .....	Moultrie, Ga.
Elder L. A. Norris .....	Camilla, Ga.

## LICENTIATES

Elder N. L. Lamb .....	Meigs, Ga.
Elder J. H. Russell .....	Thomasville, Ga.



## OUR DEAD

Brother T. O. Cone. Borned December 30, 1872. Died April 27, 1948. Christ saw a hand we could not see, which beckoned Brother Cone away. He heard a voice we couldn't hear, which wouldn't let him stay.

Kennedy Chapel.

The death angel visited the home of Brother J. B. Kearns on July 6, 1948, and took him home to Heaven.

He was married to Laura Eva Philips in 1900, in Dothan, Ala., by his own father, Rev. John B. Kearns, who preached for many years before passing on.

He leaves to mourn his loss besides his wife nine children. One having preceded him to his grave 6 years ago.

He joined the church when a young man. And served his church to his best ability. Being a Christian Deacon he was well qualified to serve his church well. He was a member of Greenwood Church, Chairman of the Executive Board of the Union Association.

Brother Kearns would have been 70 years old on July 10, 1948. He will be greatly missed, especially in our community here. His memory will continue to be in our midst for some time.

Greenwood Church.

On Friday, October 15, 1948, at 4 o'clock, the angels visited a home for a few minutes, taking with them on their return to Heaven James Thomas Lassester, the oldest member of Midway Church.

He'd been a follower of Christ many years, having given himself to Christ in his young manhood days.

He was borned April 1, 1861. Married Carrie Johnson October, 1891, which, with 10 children survive him. Five children preceded him in death. He was laid to rest at Oakdale Church with Brother T. W. Ritcher and T. W. Branch officiating. Moultrie quartette singing.

"In Heaven now he's singing songs of praise,  
Where voices sweetly blend,  
I'm going there when ends my earthly days,  
Where joy shall never end.  
No more earth to plod,  
Gone home to live with God."

Midway Church.

"Letter to Little River Association from Union Association in favor of Jerusalem."

Moultrie, Ga.  
Oct. 20, 1948.

Elder Riley Giddens, Moderator,  
Little River Association,  
Ray City, Ga.  
Dear Brother in Christ:

It is the wish of the Union Association of Freewill Baptist to acknowledge to you receipt of your letter as Moderator of the Little River Association of like precious faith relative to the standing of Jerusalem Church.

For the 4 years just passed, Jerusalem Church has not represented in our body nor have they in any way affiliated with any of the work of our Association, however, there has at no time been, nor is there now any charge of disorder against them.

We beg to commend you most heartily for having refuse to accept them into your full fellowship without a letter from us. We agree with you that for an Association to accept a church without a letter would be a breach of fellowship and would bring such an Association into a state of disorder with any Association whose church they had received with a letter.

In viewing of the foregoing fact it is the pleasure of this body as an orderly Freewill Baptist Church, you authorized hereby to accept them as such, making them an orderly member of your Association.

Again, we commend you for your loyal stand in adhering to the rules of government by which all true Freewill Baptist are to be guided in order to promote unity, peace and progress in the ranks of our denomination. May our Christ ever guide and strengthen you in taking an uncompromising stand for the faith, the covenant, decorum and rules of government of the Freewill Baptist Church. In your adherence to these things you will better help the growth and expansion of our beloved denomination.

We invite you to keep in communication with us by correspondence and by your ministers visiting our churches. Pray for us. God bless you in all your righteous efforts to promote the best interest of all of our denomination life.

The foregoing passed and approved by the Union Association of Freewill Baptist's while in session with St. Paul Church. This Oct. 21, 1948.

W. L. HARRELL, Moderator,  
MRS. J. B. RICE, Clerk.

Ray City, Ga., Rt. 1,  
Oct. 20th, 1948.

To the Beloved Brethren and Sisters of the Union Association of United Freewill Baptists, convening with St. Paul Church on Wednesday and Thursday before the Fourth Sunday in October, 1948.  
Greetings in Christ's Name:

We take this means of communicating with you and to acquaint you with the fact that New Jerusalem Church of your Association petitioned by letter and delegates for membership in our Association at our session which convened last week with Cool Spring Church in Colquitt County, Georgia. We accepted them under our watch care pending their securing a letter from your body before their reception into our body in full fellowship.

We realize that to have received them without a letter from your body into the full fellowship of our body would be an open breach of fellowship upon our part. To have received them in full would have been an open violation of rules of government of the Freewill Baptist Denomination. Be it far from us that we should ever show such a total disregard for any sister association.

If they are not in good standing and in full fellowship with your Association, we should be glad to assist them and you in bringing about a condition that they might be restored to your body. Then, we should be glad to give to them full reception into our body as a member church with us.

In the event there is such a condition of disorder existing upon their part with your body, we most surely decline to receive them into our full fellowship until such disorders are righted.

Please let us know the true conditions relative to the standing of this church. We solicit your continued correspondence with us—The Little River Association of United Freewill Baptist. May God bless you as a body that you may experience a peaceful and an effective session this time is our prayers. Pray for us.

Yours in our Christ,

The Little River Association of United Freewill Baptists

RILEY GIDDENS, Moderator.

### GOVERNMENT AND ORDINANCES

1. We believe that a gospel church, or Church of Christ, is a congregation of Christians constituted and governed according to the rules laid down in the New Testament.

2. That these rules require churches to preserve the form of government and the ordinances of the first Christian churches and to be composed of baptized believers in Christ.

3. That the visible church is the aggregate or whole number of Gospel churches, and that the invisible church is composed of the redeemed now in Heaven and such Christians on earth as are not attached to the visible church according to the gospel rules.

4. That the establishment of a central catholic government over the visible church, or any part thereof, is a device of earthly ambition repugnant to the Word of Jesus, subservient to the churches and dangerous to the liberty of man.

5. The Gospel churches are the only ecclesiastical bodies or tribunals authorized by the Scriptures; that each church has the unrestricted right to administer its own government without supervision or interference, being under Christ essentially independent and absolute, and that if this right be surrendered to superintending jurisdiction by delegation or otherwise, the assembly ceases to be a Gospel church.

6. The churches may, nevertheless, we suppose, meet by delegates, form an association and declare the terms upon which they will keep up the correspondence; but that the right and authority of churches being inalienable, or in no way comprised or hindered by entering into an association has no authority over churches or individuals, their only power being to transact business which does not pertain to churches in their ecclesiastical capacity; to promote natural intercourses, and a concentration of voluntary effort; and to give that advice to churches which might with equal authority be given by any individual.

7. That the authority of the Churches is designated for the perpetuation of the true religion of the Gospel, and for the preservation of true and orderly body of Christians on earth; that it is fully sufficient for the purpose intended, but it does not extend to persons, property or the conscience of men in any manner whatsoever.

8. That the only requisites to church membership are faith in Christ and obedience to the Gospel; that faith in Christ necessarily exists in connection with the belief in the fundamental truths of Christianity, and that to prescribe any other requisite of such membership is an assumption of authority on the part of the church and a departure from the Gospel plan.

9. That the Officers of a church are elders and deacons; that the elders are called bishops or pastors, and all of the elders are equal in rank though they may perform different functions—since some may be bishops or pastors of particular churches, while others may be simple elders, having no pastoral charge.

10. That the authority of a minister of the Gospel extends to teaching, exhortation and rebuke, but no further; that he cannot perform any acts that belong to the authority of the church—such as the reception of members into the church compact, or the expulsion of offenders; that as a member of the church, he is not more than any other member, and if he is guilty of transgression he is to be brought to trial before his brethren and con-

victed or acquitted in the same manner as if he were a private person; yet we think it prudent to call in advisory help especially if the minister is to be tried upon a charge of heresy.

11. That Christian baptism is the immersion of the believer in water in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost.

12. That the Lord's Supper and the washing of the saints' feet are ordinances to be observed in the church until the Lord comes.

13. That elders and deacons must be set apart to their office of ordination, by the imposition of the hands of the presbytery and prayer, without which they are not authorized to administer the ordinances pertaining to their respective offices.

14. No preacher shall be ordained until he has been recommended by his church, and the church where he has been called and shall not pastor any church until ordained.

#### CHURCH DECORUM

1. The Church may choose a pastor annually at the last regular conference in Association year, or if they prefer it, may choose a pastor for an indefinite length of time to continue from year to year, as long as he may deem it proper to keep up the connection.

2. When it becomes necessary, a pastor may be chosen at any other time, but if the choice be made at a special conference the time must be appointed at a monthly meeting of the church.

3. The pastor shall be moderator of the church, but when he is absent or does not sit as moderator, being present, some suitable brother shall be appointed to sit in his place.

4. There shall be two or more deacons in the church, whose duty it shall be to superintend the collection and disbursement of all contributions made by the church for the pastor, etc., and to distribute the bread and wine in administration of the Lord's Supper.

5. The deacons shall take notice of such members as refuse or neglect to partake of the Lord's Supper and endeavor to ascertain the cause that the same may be laid before the church in conference if necessary.

6. Some suitable member shall be appointed Clerk and it shall be his duty to do all the recording and writing pertaining to the business of the church, and to preserve a file of the minutes of the Association.

7. When a Clerk is appointed, all the books, minutes, etc., belonging to the Clerk, shall be immediately delivered to him by his predecessor. Also, it shall be the duty of the church clerk to revise the church roll at least once a year. It shall be the duty of the pastors to instruct the deacons and clerks of their churches in regard to money for minutes.

8. The church shall hold a two-days' monthly meeting embracing Saturday and the Lord's Day following, the first of which shall be the regular time of the conference.

9. It shall be the duty of every member, male or female, to attend each conference meeting, if they can, for on that day the pastor is expected to instruct the church in a certain manner by giving plain and pointed lessons on doctrine, discipline and the rules of holy living.

10. Any male member who shall fail to attend three successive conferences, and any member whatever of the church according to the Covenant

(Article 5) shall be cited to appear in conference and answer for his neglect; but the church may exempt members from this rule if necessary.

11. Conference shall be opened and conducted as follows: (1) Prayer, unless divine service has just been concluded, and generally then. (2) Invite visiting brethren to seats. (3) Open the door for the reception of members. (4) Call for absentees. (5) For acknowledgements. (6) For reference of deferred business. (7) For matters of dealing which are in order to come before the church. (8) For miscellaneous business.

12. Visiting brethren, as helpers called in from sister churches, shall speak and make motions or seconds, but not allowed to vote.

13. Any orderly member of the Baptist church who does not hold this church in fellowship may be received into the church without a letter when it is made apparent that his Christian character is unimpeachable and that he has applied for a letter and could not obtain it because he desired to join this or some sister church. All other persons must join by letter or baptism.

14. No member shall be received without the unanimous consent of the members present, but unreasonable objections shall be valid, unless withdrawn, the members who make them shall be liable to be taken under dealing with the church.

15. When the moderator calls for absentees the Clerk shall inform the church what male members have been absent from three successive conferences and the Moderator shall appoint some brother or brethren to cite each of them to the next conference.

16. No member shall be expelled unless he has been cited verbally or in writing, to attend the trial, provided his residence is known to the church.

17. When a witness, not a member of the church, is introduced, he shall not be examined 'till the question has been put to the church, Will you hear the testimony of the witness?

18. The evidence in every case of dealing and acknowledgement shall be recorded in the church book.

19. Members dismissed from the church by letter who become disorderly or continue to hold their letters without good reason shall be cited to conference to answer for their misconduct.

20. Expelled members shall be restored to fellowship on their petition if their walk since expulsion has convinced the church that they have sincerely repented for their former evil.

21. A vote shall not be taken upon questions without a move and a second, and on all important questions the vote shall be taken by rising to the feet.

22. No motion shall be made while a move and second is before the conference.

23. It shall be considered disorderly for any member to absent himself from conference when an important question is to be decided, but a member, upon request, may be exempted by the church from voting on either side in peculiar cases.

24. No member shall leave the house during conference without a sufficient cause, nor engage in conversation or whispering without being subject to be called to order by the moderator.



25. All discussions in conference must be conducted with calmness and good feeling, those who speak must rise to their feet and address the Moderator, and keep to the point in the debate.

26. No one shall speak more than three times on the same question without permission from the Moderator, nor shall the remarks of any one be unreasonably long.

27. When the Moderator speaks he must designate some brother to act in his stead.

28. No one shall be interrupted while speaking unless it is to call the speaker to order.

29. It shall be the duty of each church to attend to the administration of the Lord's Supper and washing of the Saints' feet at least once a year.

30. Members not in good standing should not commune, but the administration should not be deferred on account of any ordinary matter of dealing.

31. Public fasting, humiliation and prayer shall be observed on proper occasions.

32. That each minister preach and practice the same doctrine, and principles. And each church do the same as set up by Christ and follow the apostolic doctrine and follow it closely.

33. This Decorum may be altered or amended by a two-thirds vote of the membership present at any two successive monthly conferences.

#### CHURCH COVENANT

1. Having been brought, as we humbly trust, by divine grace into the knowledge of our divine Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, and to devote our time and talents to the interest of pure and undefiled religion, we do solemnly covenant with each other to walk together in love and brotherly kindness and to glorify God through life as the only hope in death.

2. We agree to exercise Christian love and affection for each other as members of the household of faith, that the knowledge of truth may be glorified in us and by us, to the end that we may be perfect in the will of God through Christ Jesus concerning us.

3. We endeavor to uphold the public worship of Almighty God and ordinances of His church, not to forsake the assembling of ourselves together: that we will cheerfully contribute of the means with which we are blessed for the ministry among us and other necessary expenses of the church.

4. We will not neglect the devotional exercises of secret prayer and the duties of family worship, and the training up of our children and those under our care with a view to the service of Christ and the enjoyment of Heaven.

5. We agree to neglect our secular or worldly avocation to attend the stated meetings of the Church and to labor for its prosperity in the most holy faith believing that if we do this we let our light shine; if we fail to attend to the sacred duties we prove to be a stumbling block to the world and reproach to the church.

6. We believe that all Christians are endowed with certain talents and influences, for the improvement of which they will be accountable to the Great Head of the church; that if there are unruly members in the church,

it is our duty to approach such in the spirit of love and to admonish them to forsake their evil doings, if they will not hear thee, take one or two or more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established; then if they will not hear the church, then let them be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican.

7. We believe the Worldly dance and drinking ardent spirits with and commingling with drunkards are sins which should be condemned by the church.

8. It shall be the duty of all pastors to read this Covenant and to explain every part and clause thereof to the church on the opening of all church meetings.

#### DECORUM OF THE ASSOCIATION

1. At the meeting of each session of the Association the officers of the preceding session shall preside until their successor shall be known.

2. At each session and previous to proceeding to business the names of the ministers and delegates shall be called.

3. At the close of each session the entire proceeding shall be read for correction and approval.

4. Any person wishing to speak shall rise and address the Moderator. He shall confine himself to the question under consideration and avoid personalities.

5. No person shall speak more than twice on any subject without permission from the body.

6. No motion shall be withdrawn after its discussion.

7. When a question is under discussion no motion or proposition shall be received except to adjourn, to lay on the table, to amend or postpone indefinitely, which several motions shall be preferred in order in which they are stated.

8. Nominations shall be made by the Moderator of the Association or whoever he may appoint.

9. After motion has been decided any member having voted in the affirmative may move a reconsideration.

10. No member shall absent himself during the session without permission from the presiding officer, and none shall take final leave of absence without permission from the body.

11. This Association has a right to decide what matter shall be admitted to its consideration.

12. This Decorum may be amended at any session of the Association by a majority vote.

13. No church shall liberate any minister coming from any other denomination until he has been examined by the Ordaining Council and received credentials bearing their approval.

## CONSTITUTION

1. This Association shall hereafter be known as the Union Freewill Baptist Association.
2. It shall be composed of: (1). The ministers, both ordained and licensed, belonging thereto; (2). Legal delegates from the churches composing the same.
3. Requirements of churches: Each church shall be required to send up an annual report to the Association in which they shall make a brief statement of the pastor, report the character and usefulness of the minister whose membership is with them, give name and post office of the Church Clerk, give the number baptized, received by letter, dismissed by letter, restored, excluded, and died, the number of members, and the amount paid for Associational purposes.
4. Each church in the Association shall be considered an advisory body and shall control its own government without suspension or interference, being under Christ essentially independent and absolute.
5. This body shall be considered an advisory council whose duty it is to meet annually at such places as may be agreed upon at the previous session and not to adjourn formally until all business is settled, and while there it shall be its duty to examine all questions of general interest to the Association and to use their best influence to promote a moral and benevolent means and institutions such as education, Sabbath Schools, missionary work, etc.
6. The Officers of this Association shall be a Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer, to be chosen by ballot.
7. Churches wishing to become members of this Association must adopt our articles of faith and conform to its usages.
8. That all churches sending to this Association shall be allowed not more than three delegates.
9. This Constitution may be altered or amended at any session of this Association by a majority of votes.

## ARTICLES OF FAITH

1. We believe that there is but one living, true and eternal God, the Father of whom are all things from everlasting to everlasting, glorious and immutable in His attributes.—I. Cor. 8:6; Isa. 40:28.
2. We believe that there is one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, the only begotten Son of God, born of the Virgin Mary, whom God freely sent into this world, because of the great love wherewith He loved the world; and Christ as freely gave Himself a ransom for all, tasting death for every man; who was buried and rose again the third day, and ascended into Heaven, from whence we look for Him the second time in the clouds of Heaven at the last day to judge both quick and dead.—I. Tim. 2:5; Heb. 2:9; St. John 3:16; Rev. 1:7; Acts 24:15; I. John 2:2.
3. We believe that there is one Holy Ghost, the precious gift of the Father through His dear Son, unto the world, who quickeneth and draweth sinners home to God.—St. John 16:7-8; Acts 2:4; Eph. 4:4-6.
4. We believe in the beginning God made man upright, and placed him in a state of glory without the least mixture of misery, from which he

voluntarily by transgression, fell, and by that means brought on himself a miserable and mortal state subject to death.—Gen. 2:17; 3:19.

5. We believe that God is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance and the knowledge of truth, that they might be saved; for which end Christ hath commanded the Gospel to be preached among all nations and to every creature.—Mark 16:15; Luke 24:47; John 3:15-17; I. Tim. 2:4.

6. We believe that no man shall suffer in hell for want of a Christ who died for him, but as the Scripture has said, for denying the Lord that bought them; because they believed not in the name of the only begotten Son of God. Unbelief, therefore being the cause why the just and righteous God of Heaven will condemn the children of men; it follows against all argument that all men at one time or other, are found in such capacity as that through the grace of God they may be eternally saved.—Acts 17:30; Mark 6:6; Heb. 3:10; I. John 5:1-10.

7. We believe the whole Scriptures are infallibly true, and that they are the only rules of faith and practice.—II. Tim. 3:16-17.

8. We believe in the doctrine of General Provision made of God in Christ, for the benefit of all mankind, who repent and believe the Gospel.—Luke 14:16-20; Matt. 28:19-20; Luke 13:3-5; Acts 3:19; Mark 1:15.

9. We believe that sinners are drawn to God, the Father, by the Holy Ghost, through Christ His Son, and that the Holy Ghost offers His divine aid to all the human family; so as they all might be happy, would they give place to His divine teachings; whereas, such who do not receive the divine impressions of His Holy Spirit, shall, at a future day, own their condemnation just, and charge themselves with their own damnation for wilfully rejecting the offers of sovereign grace.—Matt. 11:27; St. John 6:45-65; Ps. 1:1; Tit. 2:11-12; Jer. 22:29.

10. We believe that men, not considered simply as men, but ungodly men, were of old ordained to condemnation, considered such who turn the grace of God into lasciviousness, denying the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ who bought them, and therefore, shall bring upon themselves swift destruction; but we observe that they, and such the Apostle saith because they receive not the love of the truth, that they might be saved therefore the indignation and wrath of God is upon every soul of man that doeth evil, living and dying therein; for there is no respect of persons with God.—Jude 1:4; 2 Peter 2:1; 2 Thes. 2:11-12; Rom. 2:9-11.

11. We believe that all children dying in infancy, having not actually transgressed against the law of God, in their own persons, are only subject to the first death, which was brought on them by the fall of the first Adam, and not that any of them dying in that state, shall suffer punishment in hell by the guilt of Adam's sin, for "of such is the kingdom of God."—I. Cor. 15:22; Matt. 18:2-5; Mark 9:36-37; Matt. 19:14.

12. We believe that good works are the fruits of a saving faith, and that in the use of the means of grace, and not out of the use of those means, eternal life is promised to men.—Rev. 22:14-15; Isa. 1:19-20; Matt. 7:8; Jer. 6:16; Luke 13:34-35.

13. We believe that no man has any warrant in the Holy Scriptures for justification before God through his own words, power or ability, which he has in and of himself, only as he by grace is made able to come to God through Jesus Christ; believing the righteousness of Jesus Christ to be imputed to all believers for their eternal acceptance with God.—Rom. 4:24; Acts 8:20-21.

14. We believe that all things are foreseen in the wisdom of God, so that God knoweth whatsoever can or cannot come to pass upon all supposed conditions; yet not as having decreed any person to everlasting life; out of respect or mere choice further than He hath appointed the godly unto life, and the ungodly, who die in sin, unto death.—Heb. 4:13; Prov. 8:22-31; Matt. 25:31-46.

5. We believe, as touching Gospel ordinances, in believers' baptism, laying on of hands, receiving of the sacrament in bread and wine, washing the saints feet, anointing the sick with oil in the name of the Lord, fasting, prayer, singing praise to God, with every institution of the Lord we shall find in the New Testament.—Mark 16:15-16; Acts 8:17; Acts 19:6; Luke 22:19-20; John 13:5-17; Jas. 5:14.

16. We believe the Gospel mode of baptism is by immersion, and that believers are the only subjects for baptism.—Matt. 3:16; Mark 1:9-19; Acts 2:38-39; Rom. 6:4; Col. 2:12.

17. We believe in a general resurrection of the dead and a final judgment at the last day.—John 5:28-29; 2 Cor. 5:10.

18. We believe the happiness of the righteous is eternal and the torments of the wicked are endless.—Matt. 25:46.

ORDER OF ASSOCIATIONAL BUSINESS

1. The body at each session shall be opened and closed with prayer.
2. Call for church letters and have them read, and names of ministers and delegates enrolled.
3. Elect a Moderator, Assistant Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer by ballot.
4. Call for Petitionary Letters.
5. Invite visiting brethren to seats with us.
6. Call for Corresponding Messengers.
7. Appoint Committees: (a) Preaching; (b) Denominational Literature; (c) Temperance; (d) Church and Destitution; (e) Education; (f) Ministers; (g) Sunday Schools and Literature; (h) Resolutions; (i) Finance; (j) Card of Thanks.
8. Unfinished business.
9. Report of committees.
10. Miscellaneous business.
11. Adjournment.

Statistical Table

CHURCH AND COUNTY	PASTOR	CLERK AND POST OFFICE	Value of Property	Time of Meeting	Rec. for Baptism	Rec. by Letter	No. Expelled	No. of Members	Paid for Associational Purposes	Paid Pastor	Paid for Improvements	Paid for Home Mission	Paid for Foreign Mission	Paid for Education	Paid for Superannation	Evangelist Paid	Other Purposes
Bethlehem, Colquitt	C. L. Croft	D. Carden, Berlin, Ga.	\$2,000	3	1	2		162	\$ 2.00	\$ 49.00				\$ 4.00			\$ 16
Midway, Colquitt	L. S. Anthony	Mrs. Mattie Gay, R. 4, Moultrie, Ga.	1,250	1-3	5	6		82	15.00	867.13		\$96.20	\$28.36	\$151.46	\$40.00	\$ 31.90	240
Kennedy Chapel, Thomas	E. B. Norman	Mrs. Mamie Brooks, R. 1, Pavo, Ga.	1,500	1-3	2	13		49	5.00	49.70		56.30					31
Clemmens Bridge, Mitchell	W. A. Sellars	H. G. Davis, Baconton, Ga.	500	1		2		12	4.00	118.33		5.00					
Greenwood, Mitchell	L. A. Norris	R. 1, Camilla, Ga.	4,000	2-4		2		45	10.00	234.39	\$80.00	12.00		25.00	7.00		160
Salem, Jefferson	W. L. Barrow	George Wyrick, Monticello, Fla.	1,000	2-4	1			20	10.00	243.70	8.00	8.00					
Spring Hill, Mitchell	W. A. Sellars	Mrs. T. M. Morey, Doerun, Ga.	2,000	4		2		67	6.00	68.50	500.00	7.50	4.50			6.00	
St. Paul, Tift	L. S. Anthony	M. H. Hinson, Omega, Ga.	1,000	4	2	1		52	6.05	258.60		30.00	43.25	6.95	10.00	61.83	
Thomasville, Thomas	W. F. Clark	Mrs. B. S. Powell, Thomasville, Ga.	5,000	All	2	6		54	12.00	302.21		12.00				87.99	
Tallahassee, Leon	W. H. Keal	Allen Sapp, Tallahassee, Fla.	3,000	1-3	3	18	1	20	7.00		2,500.00					171.00	\$21