

# MINUTES

PROCEEDING

## Twenty-Eighth Annual Session

OF THE

## UNION ASSOCIATION

OF THE

## UNITED FREE WILL BAPTISTS

WHICH CONVENE WITH

### St. Paul Church

TIFT COUNTY

OCTOBER 21-22, 1953

## OFFICERS

Elder Lamar Parrish ..... Moultrie, Ga., Rt. 4  
Mrs. J. B. Rice, Clerk and Treas. .... Moultrie, Ga., Rt. 4

## Executive Committee

Curtis Gay ..... Hartsfield, Ga.  
G. W. Worsham ..... Camilla, Ga.  
Artie Cone ..... Pavo, Ga.  
M. H. Hinson ..... Omega, Ga.  
Walter Sloan ..... Moultrie, Ga., Rt. 4

The next session of this Association will convene with Greenwood Church, Mitchell County, Wednesday and Thursday, after 3rd Sunday in October, 1954. Elder L. O. Lovett, Lenox, Ga., will preach the introductory Sermon, with Elder Lamar Parrish, alternate.

OUR DEAD

J. E. Jordan .....	Kennedy Chapel
Robert Murphy .....	Midway
Mrs. Euna Cox .....	St. Paul
D. D. R. Muekey .....	St. Paul
Frances Whitfield .....	Salem

## PROCEEDINGS

Proceedings of the 28th Annual Session of The Union Freewill Baptist Association, convening with St. Paul Church, Tift County, Oct. 21-22, 1953.

Open Service with remarks by Elder K. V. Shutes, Moderator.

Song—"I'll Be Satisfied" by Congregation.

Prayer—by Elder W. G. Boyd.

Call for Church letters was made. Letters were read by Elder Lamar Parrish and Elder E. C. Morris.

Motion and carried that letter reports be accepted and delegates be seated at read.

Bay: Sisters Julie Faison, Rossie Faison, Bro. Curtis Gay.

Bethlehem: Sisters Aquilla Croft and Alderman.

Clements Bridge: Sisters D. B. Morey, T. E. Bundy, Bro. T. E. Bundy.

Cairo: Sisters Talmade Sellars, Clara Britt, Herman Glover.

Greenwood: Sisters G. T. Harvey, G. W. Worsham, Bro. G. T. Harvey.

Kennedy Chapel: Ellis Cannon, Mark Brooks, Washington Davis.

Midway: Sisters J. K. Johnson, E. L. Dunlap, Mattie Gay.

St. Paul: Sister Allene Touchton, Bobby Hinson, Monroe Justice.

Thomasville: Sisters Susie Surrency, Mary Jaregiara, Bro. Willie Elrod.

Salem: Sisters Julia Branch, S. R. Hunter.

Spring Hill: Sisters Lanz Thomson, Bertia Jones, Bro. Tom Hatcher.

New Hope: Sisters Nettie Lanier, Murpy Lanier, Bro. Murphy Lanier.

Song—"Land Where Living Waters Flow".

Prayer—Bro. G. C. King.

Song—"Heavens Jubilee".

Prayer—by Elder M. T. Golf.

Introductory Sermon—by Elder W. G. Boyd.

Scripture reading, I Cor. 3:10, Theme "Building for God's Kingdom".  
A message of challenge was given to all.

An offering for prayer was given.

Welcome Address by Pastor Elder Lamar Parrish.

Dismissed for lunch by Elder W. A. Sellars.

Noon hour.

Reassemble.

- Song by Congregation.
- Special song—"Look Up", by Mrs. Freedy Faircloth.
- Open for business session.
- Appointing of committees.
- Devotional: Sister Rossie Faison, Bros. T. E. Bundy, Monroe Justice.
- Denominational Literature: Sisters Julia Faison, Mattie Gay, G. W. Worsham, Murphy Lanier.
- Finance: Sisters J. K. Johnson, Bertia Jones, Mary Jarnigiara, Bro. Bobby Hinson.
- Resolutions: Elder Lamar Parrish, Mark Brooks, G. W. Worsham, Mrs. D. B. Morey, Elder W. A. Sellars.
- Educational: Elder A. L. Sellars, Ellis Cannon, Willie Elrod, Sister Susie Surrency.
- Auxiliaries: Sisters E. L. Dunlop, J. F. Harmon, Allene Touchton.
- Credentials: Curtis Gay, J. H. K. Jones, Elders E. C. Morris, and A. L. Sellars.
- Nominations: Murphy Lanier, Sisters T. E. Bundy, Lanz Thomson.
- Temperance: Tom Hatcher, Elder Harvey Giddens, Sisters G. T. Harvey, Nettie Lanier.
- Invited visitors to seat with us, and welcome by the Moderator.
- Chattahooche: Bro. G. C. King, Bro. J. A. Littles, Bro. and Sister J. E. Davis.
- Little River: Bro. and Sister V. R. Franks, Elder M. T. Golf, Ray Machenvale, Bro. E. D. Franks, Bro. and Sister Charlie Chafin, Sister Mercer.
- Tucker Association: Mrs. Winston Argo.
- South Ga.: Elder and Sister E. C. Morris.
- Martin: Elder B. W. Clenny and wife, Mrs. Tanilla Cleveland.
- Holiness Baptist: Mrs. Trudy Fairclothe.
- Primitive Baptist: Jim Tapp Jones.
- Association Decorum was read by Mod. This body recommends that Bro. Kenneth Faison (who is in Bible college) be given an extentation of licences to preach another year from his home church (Bay).
- Motion and carried that we grant N. L. Lamb extended licences.
- Bro. K. V. Shutes told of the plans being made on building the Cairo church at Cairo, Ga.
- An offering was taken for same of \$14.33.
- Special song by St. Paul Quarttet.
- Placing the delegates in homes for the night was done by a committee of the church.

Dismissed for evening services by Elder W. L. Harrell.

Supper was served at the church by the ladies of church and community.

"EVENING SERVICES"

Open with song services led by M. H. Hinson.

Special singing by Mrs. Trudy Fairclothe and sons.

Devotional by Mrs. J. F. Harmon, who gave the story of the "Life of Betty Boxler".

Song—"There Is a Fountain", by Congregation.

Evening Sermon by Elder Harvey Giddens.

Scripture reading, Isaiah 11: 1, 15.

A very inspiring message was given.

Song—"I Would Not Be Denied".

Dismissed by Rev. A. J. Brady.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22

Opening song—"Amazing Grace".

Devotional—Elder Lamar Parrish.

Scripture, St. John 11: 1, 15.

Thought—"The Love of God".

Prayer by Bro. Parrish.

Open for business session.

Report of the state promotional worker, Rev. E. C. Morris, Box 553, Tifton, Ga. Stating what we mean by promotional is, we mean to promote the phases of God's work in our churches over the state of Georgia and else where. What we mean by unified is to unify the work. Our job is to endeavor to promote every phase of the work of the Freewill Baptist, to acquaint the people of the Associations with each other and to the State Association. The money which is sent into the unified program is divided thus: Missions 30%; Camp 30%; Christian Education 25%; Superunuation 8%; Children Home 5%; Womans Auxiliary 2%.

An offering of \$32.50 for the unified program was taken.

Song—"I Feel Like Traveling On".

Prayer by Elder W. A. Sellars.

Sermon by Elder M. T. Golf.

Scripture, Matt. 16: 13, 18. Text Matt. 18.

Bro. Shutes ask that we pray for the program over Cairo Radio Station, Cairo, Ga.

## THE UNITED FREE WILL BAPTISTS

Dismissed for lunch by Rev. E. C. Morris.

Noon.

Reassemble.

Opening song—"The Old Country Church".

Prayer—Rev. H. E. Rogers.

Devotional—Elder B. W. Chenny.

Scripture reading, Matt. 5:11, 21.

Re-enter into the business session.

An offering to get money for associational purposes was taken. Amount received was \$19.00.

A special song—"A Home Not Made With Hands" was sung by Charlie Chafin and Sister Mercer.

A letter of dismissal was granted Tallahassee Church from this Association so they could go to one closer by.

Motion and carried that J. H. K. Jones be released by his request from the Executive Committee. Also that S. L. Holden be released.

Curtis Gay, Bay Church, G. W. Worsham, Greenwood church, was appointed by Moderator on Executive Committee. Motion and carried that one member from Executive Committee be expired each year according to year date as: Artie Cone 1954; M. H. Hinson 1955; Walter Sloan 1956; G. W. Worsham 1957; Curtis Gay 1958.

Elder Lamar Parrish, Rt. 4, Moultrie Ga., was appointed as a co-worker to the state promotional worker from the Union Association.

A church letter form for Association and quarterly meetings was presented to the body and approved.

Camp leaders of this Association are: Wayne Faison, Hartsfield, Ga., General Chair. The following people from local churches as so-workers are: Bay: W. R. Tucker, Moultrie, Ga., Rt. 1. Bethlehem: Aquilla Croft, Rt. 2, Pavo, Ga. Cairo: Mrs. Rufus Ward, Cairo, Ga. Midway: B. A. Faison, Rt. 4, Monticello, Fla. Greenwood: Mrs. G. W. Worsham, Camilla, Ga. St. Paul: Marv Hinson, Omega, Ga. Kennedy Chapel: Mrs. Margaret Voiner, Pavo, Ga., Rt. 3. New Hope: Bvrant: Bradley Colledge, Ga. Spring Hill: Lamar Robern, Doerun, Ga. Thomasville: Mrs. Mary Jargingan, Thomasville. For full information write C. J. Harvey, Camilla, Ga.

Address of Freewill Baptist Missionary of Cuba, Elder T. H. Whiley, Partado 27 Piner, Del Rio, Cuba.

Chairman advised by Moderator to write pastors of churches to see if church will support the camp before asking co-worker.

Motion and carried that we accept Bro. Shutes' resignation as Moderator of this Association and he be granted a letter of full fellowship from this body. Reason, he's moving to another Association.

Elder Lamar Parrish was elected to serve the unfinished time of Bro. Shutes by a ballot vote. The Asst. Mod. is Elder W. L. Harrell. The year 1954 will be the general election of officers for Association.

Delegates to sister Associations appointed as follows:

Little River: Oct. 14, 15: At Pinelevel Church, Elder W. L. Harrell.

Martin: At Mt. Gillean, Elder A. L. Sellars.

Midway: At Traveler Rest, Nov. 3, at Patmos Nov. 4, Elder K. V. Shutes and Elder A. L. Sellars.

Ga. Union: Elder A. L. Sellars.

South Ga.: Act. 22, 23, Ebenezer, Elder A. L. Sellars.

Chattahooche: Oct. 1, 2, at Mt. Oliver, M. H. Hinson.

State Association: Mrs. J. B. Rice, M. H. Hinson.

National Association: Curtis Gay.

Motion and carried that we send to State Association \$10.00, pay Mod. \$5.00, Clerk \$25.00. Clerk was given permission to write each church for money for minute printing if needed.

A vote of thanks was given the St. Paul Church for the fine way in which they entertained this body.

Motion that we adjourn.

Dismissed by parting fellowship meeting.

NAMES AND ADDRESS OF ORDAINED MINSTERS

Elder W. L. Harrell ..... Omega, Ga.  
 Elder Lamar Parrish ..... Moultrie, Ga., Rt. 4  
 Elder L. O. Lovett ..... Lenox, Ga.  
 Elder L. G. Baldwin ..... Pavo, Ga., Rt. 3  
 Elder G. D. Roberts ..... Pavo, Ga.  
 Elder Obie Cone ..... 112 Susaway St., Thomasville, Ga.  
 Elder W. A. Sellars ..... Camilla, Ga.  
 Elder A. L. Sellars ..... Quitman, Ga.  
 Elder Ralph Lightsey ..... Chamblee, Ga.  
 Elder Harvey Giddens ..... Moultrie, Ga., Rt. 6  
 Elder C. L. Croft ..... Pavo, Ga.  
 Elder W. G. Boyd ..... Thomasville, Ga., Rt. 4  
 Elder W. L. Barrow ..... Drifton, Fla.  
 Elder T. J. Bryant ..... Pavo, Ga., Rt. 1

LICENTIATIES

N. L. Lamb ..... Meigs, Ga.  
 John Rhodes ..... Moultrie, Ga.  
 Kenneth Faison ..... Nashville, Tenn.

## THE UNITED FREE WILL BAPTISTS

## ASSOCIATIONAL TREASURER REPORT

Received from Finance Committee .....	\$103.25
Balance in Treasurer at Session .....	13.00
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$116.25</b>
Paid to State Association .....	\$ 10.50
Paid Moderator .....	5.00
Paid Clerk .....	25.00
<b>Total Paid at Association .....</b>	<b>\$ 40.50</b>
Balance in Trea. ....	\$ 75.95
Received later for printing Minutes .....	22.00
<b>Making a Total of .....</b>	<b>\$ 97.75</b>
Cost of Printing Minutes .....	\$ 93.50
Cost of Mailing Same .....	4.65
	<b>\$ 98.15</b>

## QUARTERLY MEETING REPORT

Of funds and how they were disbursed. Received as dues and offerings from local churches.

## Disbursed as:

Unified Program .....	\$ 81.00
Missions .....	50.00
Cairo Church .....	43.05
Bible College .....	25.00
Rev. Obie Cone (for sickness) .....	17.00
Rev. Manse Cason .....	5.00
Paid Moderator .....	20.00
Paid Clerk .....	20.00
Other Expenses .....	3.85
	<b>\$264.90</b>

Officers of Union Meeting for 2 years are: C. J. Faison, Hartsfield, Ga., Mod.; Elder Harvey Giddens, Moultrie, Ga., Rt. 6, Asst. Mod.; Mrs. J. B. Rice, Moultrie, Ga., Rt. 4, Sect. & Clerk; Curtis Gay, Hartsfield, Ga., Asst. Clerk.



## REPORTING OF COMMITTEES

## NOMINATIONS

We, the Nominating Committee recommend that this Association meet with Greenwood Church next session, with Elder L. O. Lovett, Lenox, Ga., to preach Introductory Sermon. With Elder Lamar Parrish Alternate. Places for the Union Meetings: Nov. 29, 1953. Midway Church: Elder Harvey Giddens to preach: Spring Hill Church, Jan. 31, 1954, Elder W. G. Boyd to preach. Bay Church, May 30, 1954, Elder W. A. Sellars to preach. Cairo Church, Aug. 29, 1954, Elder G. D. Roberts to preach.

MURPHY LANIER, Chairman.

## DEVOTIONAL

We recommend that Sister J. F. Harmon to have devotional Wed. night. Elder Harvey Giddens to preach. Elder Mack Golf to preach Thurs.

MRS. ROSSIE FAISON, Chair.

## TEMPERANCE

We, your Committee on Temperance offer the following report, that we consider the liquor traffic enemy, no one, we further agree that our church people abstain from theatre, ball games, night clubs, and worldly recreation, also from buying and selling or work for any kind on the habits.

We demand that our ministers live and preach temperance to the laymen in our churches. That we endeavor to live peaceable with all men.

TOM HATCHER, Chair.

## EDUCATION

We, your Committee on Education beg to render the following: That we recognize the fact that education is the power of information and as such we should be careful as to the kind of information our people receive.

Be it resolved, therefore that we place before our youth good literature which may be produced by our own publishing houses or recommended by them. That our churches use their influences in getting our youth to attend the summer youth camp and should further Christian training. We recommend our Bible College. We urge all our people to stand for our Christian institution with their prayers and financial support, that should there be those in our midst that are not in sympathy with our Bible College and youth camp, that they be sure to get facts, before criticizing them and make sure they make truthful statements.

ELDER A. L. SELLARS, Chair.

## DENOMINATIONAL LITERATURE

We, the Committee on Denominational Literature, urged all our churches to use the Freewill Baptist Literature published by the Freewill Baptist Press, Ayden, N. C., for all church work. We also urge our people to take the Freewill Baptist paper. If and when they start publishing of the Georgia paper, that every one subscribe for it.

MRS. JULIA FAISON, Chair.

## AUXILIARIES

We, the Committee find six churches having Sunday School, five with weekly prayer meetings, four with leagues, two with auxiliaries.

We urge that every body pray about these auxiliaries in the churches that don't have them, for we believe that if they'll first pray they'll do something about organizing these which are so needed for the training of our children.

MRS. E. L. DUNLAP, Chair.

## RESOLUTIONS

We, your Committee recommend the re-adoption of the last year's budget to stand as written.

We recommend that the Government and Ordinances be left as it is.

We recommend that we adopt a loan for new churches being built.

Last year's budget as follows:

Bay: \$10.00; Bethlehem: \$8:00; Cairo: \$5.00; Clements Bridge: \$5.00; Midway: \$15.00; Kennedy Chapel: \$8:00; Greenwood: \$10.00; Salem: \$10.00; Spring Hill: \$10.00; New Hope: \$5.00; Thomasville: \$10.00; St. Paul: \$10.00.

ELDER LAMAR PARRISH, Chair.

## CREDENTIALS

We, your Credential Committee, submit the following report. We have examined the delegations from Proctor Chapel and Poulan Churches, and also received statement from their pastor and according to their testimonies we find that the said churches intend to remain with their pastor erespective of the action of the Association and according to testimony of their pastor H. E. Rogers, we find he is not in fellowship with Bro. Shutes, and he states that he does not desire to be in the Association with him unless apoligies are made by Bro. Shutes. We cannot recommend that the Association receive the delegates of Proctor Chapel or Poulan Church until grievences are settled.

Further-more, the committee finds that according to the testimony of the Proctor Chapel Church delegates and pastor. The Executive Committee, which is the Association between sessions, was not received cordially by them, when it was their purpose to help them. We consider it the duty of the Proctor Chapel Church and Pastor to apoligize to Committee for their rude treatment. Should this be done, we recommend that the Church and Pastor come under the watch care of this Association for a period of one year, and should this recommendation be complied with the Church and Pastor, well then be considered in full fellowship.

The Committee feels it advisable that Poulan Church petitioning for membership be received under the Association for 1 year. When put to vote. Counted votes were 22 for, 4 against.

Respectively submitted Oct. 22, 1953.

CURTIS GAY, Chair.

## GOVERNMENT AND ORDINANCES

1. We believe that 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 ordinances of the first Christian churches and to be composed of baptised 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 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 God, subservient to the churches and dangerous to the liberty of man.

5. That gospel churches are the only ecclesiastical bodies or tribunals authorized by the Scriptures; and 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 delegates or otherwise, the assembly ceases to be a Gospel church.

6. That 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 compromised or hindered by entering into an association, and therefore 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 equal authority given by an 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 that does not extend to persons, property or the conscience of men in any manner whatsoever.

8. That the only requirement 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, rebuke, helping with Lords supper, marriage, baptize, 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 the 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 according to Matt. 18: 15, 17. 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 washing of the Saint's feet are ordinances to be observed in the church until the Lord comes. John 13; I Tim. 5, 9, 10.

13. That Elders and Deacons must be set apart to their office or ordination, by laying on 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 licentiate shall be ordained until called in care of one or more churches.

### 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 the administration of the Lord's Supper and to baptize if necessary.

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 and a appointed committee 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 day's monthly meeting if desired, 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. Conferences 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 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. An orderly member of the fundamentally protestant 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 not 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 be known to the church.

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

18. The evidence in every case or dealing and knowledge shall be recorded in the church book.

19. Members dismissed from the church by letter who become disorderly or continue to hold their letter 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. Unless to amend, to rescind or to hold.

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 receipt, 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 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 the point in the debate.

26. No one shall speak more than two 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 can be 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 Saint's feet at least quarterly 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. No Licentiate shall be ordained until called in care of one or more churches.

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

### CHURCH COVENANT

1. Having been brought, as we humbly trust, by Divine Grace into the knowledge of our Divine Lord and Savior 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 a 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 more that in the mouth of two or three witnesses that 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 the co-mingling with drunkards are sins which should be condemned by the church.

8. It shall be the duty of all pastors to read or have read this Covenant and to explain every part and clause thereof to the church quarterly.

#### DECORUM

1. That the officers of this Association shall be elected at the close of session. The election shall come on even years and they shall hold office 2 years.

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

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

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

5. No motion shall be withdrawn after its discussion.

6. 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 the order in which they are stated.

7. Appointments shall be made by the Moderator of the Association or whoever he may appoint.

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

9. 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.

10. The Association has a right to decide what matter shall be admitted to its consideration.

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

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

### CONSTITUTION

1. This Association shall hereafter be known as the Union Free Will 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 and deacons.

3. Requirement 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 postoffice of the Church Clerk, give the number baptised, received by letter, dismissed by letter, restored, excluded, and died, the number of members, and the amount paid for Associational purposes and all other purposes.

4. Each church in the Association shall be considered an advisory body and shall control its own internal affairs having the unrestricted right to administer 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 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 institution such as education, Sunday Schools, missionary work, etc.

6. The officers of this Association shall be Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer, Executive Committee to be chosen by ballots.

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 3 delegates.

9. This Constitution may be altered or amended at any session of this Association by a majority of votes.

### ARTICLES OF FAITH

First, We believe that there is but one living, true and eternal God, the Father, of whom are all things from everlasting, glorious and immutable in all 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 ransome 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, 6; Heb. 2:9; St. John 8; Acts 2:4; Eph. 3:1; Eph. 6.

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. 3:1; Eph. 4:4, 6. And that he comes into our hearts. John 1: 1; 12; Gal. 4:4; 16; 2nd. Cor. 5:12; Titus 3: 5; 1, John 5: 1; 10: 13.

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 knowledge of truth, that they might be saved; for which in 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 Christ who died for him, but as the Scripture has said, for denying the Lord that brought 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 5:10.

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 in the Gospel.—Luke 14:16, 20; Matt. 28:19, 20; Luke 13:3, 5; Luke 24:47; 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 willfully 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 brought 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; II Peter 2:1; II 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 person, 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. 18:25; Mark 9:36, 37; Matt. 18:25; Matt. 19:13.

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 works, 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 death or 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.

15. We believe, as touching gospel ordinances, in believers baptism, laying on of hands, receiving of the sacrament in bread and wine, washing the saint's feet, anointing the sick with oil in the name of the Lord, fasting, prayer, singing praise to God, and the public ministry of the Word, 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 the believers are the only subjects for baptism.—Matt. 3:16; Mark 1:9, 10; Acts 3:19, 21; 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; II 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 every 2 years.
4. Call for Petitionary Letters.
5. Invite visiting brethren to seats with us.
6. Call Corresponding Messengers.
7. Appoint Committees: (a) Preaching; (b) Denominational Literature; (c) Temperance; (d) Credential; (e) Education; (f) Ministers; (g) Auxiliaries; (h) Resolutions; (i) Finance; (j) Card of Thanks.
8. Unfinished business.
9. Report of committees.
10. Miscellaneous business.
11. Adjournment.

