

*Andrew C. Truluck*

**M I N U T E S**

PROCEEDING

**Thirtieth Annual Session**

OF THE

**UNION ASSOCIATION**

OF THE

*Omit*  
**UNITED FREE WILL BAPTISTS**

WHICH CONVENE WITH

**Bethlehem Church**

COLQUITT COUNTY

OCTOBER 19-20, 1955

**O F F I C E R S**

Elder Lamar Parrish ..... R. 4, Albany, Ga.

Mrs. J. B. Rice, Clerk & Treas. .... R. 4, Moultrie, Ga.

**Executive Committee**

Curtis Gay, Chair. .... Hartsfield, Ga.

G. W. Worsham ~~(Curtis)~~ ..... Camilla, Ga.

Paul Hayes ..... Baconton, Ga.

M. H. Hinson ~~(Curtis)~~ ..... Omega, Ga.

Walter Sloan ..... Moultrie, Ga.

The next session of this Association will convene with Bay Church, Wednesday and Wednesday night, Thursday, Midway Church. Both in Colquitt County after 3rd Sunday, October, 1956. Elder Ralph Lightsey, Hazelhurst, Ga., to preach the introductory sermon. Elder Lamar Parrish, Albany, Ga., R. 4, Alternate.

Charges & members

1. Ordaining Council - and 2. Members
2. Minutes - and Minutes of quarterly meetings to association.

A. Record of Sunday School Convention

B. Record of League Convention  
~~Record~~

3. Separate Clerks for Association & quarterly meetings.

4. Report of Ordaining Council be recorded in association's Minutes.

#### OUR DEAD

Mrs. Lou Oliver .....	Thomasville
Mrs. T. F. Parham .....	New Hope
Mr. W. M. Goff .....	Midway
Mrs. Hettie Short .....	Bethlehem

5. Credentials Committee required to give thorough report.

6. Omit united on minutes.

7. Order of Business of Ordaining Council  
Treatise page 49.

## PROCEEDINGS

Proceedings of the 30th Annual Session of the Union Freewill Baptist Association convening with Bethlehem Church, Colquitt Co., Berlin, Ga., October 19-20, 1955.

Open services with song

Prayer by Bro. J. A. Brady

Open for business in order to accept Church letters and seat delegates.

Letters were read by C. J. Faison and Rev. L. G. Baldwin.

Motion and carried that letters be adopted and delegates be seated.

## DELEGATES

Bay: Sisters Pauline Gay, Ruby Faison, Julie Faison.

Bethlehem: Grady Giddens, Darrell Chapman, Sister Georgie Croft.

Cairo: Bro. and Sister Rufus Ward.

Clements Bridge: Sisters Frances Hooks, Marjorie Parrish, D. B. Morey.

Midway: Roy C. Murphy, B. A. Faison, Douglas Murphy.

Greenwood: G. W. Worsham, Bro. and Sister Wayman Sharp.

New Hope: Bro. and Sister W. S. Harper, Sister Fannie Bobo.

Kennedy Chapel: Sister E. T. Roberson, Bro. and Sister W. L. Hagans.

St. Paul: Sister Alleene Touchton, Ruby Gunn, Bro. Monroe Justice.

Spring Hill: Bro. & Sister Olen Bundy.

Thomasville: Sister E. T. Lane, E. L. Murkerson.

Motion and carried that business be discontinued for Preaching hour.

Introductory sermon by Rev. W. A. Sellars. Scripture reading John 29:1  
—1 Cor: 34-33.

Theme: "Whither thou goest."

An inspiring message was given after which a fellowship meeting was held.

Welcome address by pastor.

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

Noon hour.

Reassemble.

Song by the congregation.

Prayer, Rev. C. J. Harvey.

Open for business.

Welcome visitors to sit with us.

Call for visitors from Sister Associations.

Tucker Association: Sister Autry Johnson.

South Ga. and State: Bro. and Sister E. C. Morris.

Chattahoochee: Bro. G. C. King.

Martin: Reverend's B. W. Clenny, Drew Floyde.

Little River: Reverend's L. G. Baldwin, Mance Cason.

Report of Unified Program and presentation of certificates to Churches' on the honor roll was given by Rev. E. C. Morris, State Promotional Sect.

By request of Proctor Chapel Church a letter of dismissal was granted.

Wayman Sharp, Greenwood Church was ordained as a Deacon.

The Ordaining Council was composed of Reverend's Lamar Parrish, W. A. Sellars, W. G. Boyd.

Rev. C. J. Harvey gave a report on activities of Camp Bethel, stating the camp was debt free. He asked each church to select a person to assist the camp leader and that each church to set a budget from their local church for camp support. Such as: 15% of League and S. S. offering.

Curtis Gay, Bay Church was elected Camp Committee over all chairman. Plans to be worked out later.

An offering for Camp was taken at this time. Amount \$14.25.

Reporting of committees that were ready and releasing of same was done and will be found elsewhere in Minutes.

Motion and carried that we adjourn for evening services.

Pastor announced that supper would be served at the church.

Dismissed by Rev. W. L. Harrell.

### EVENING SERVICES

Congregation singing.

Prayer: Rev. June Bryant.

Special singing by church choir.

Prayer: Rev. G. D. Roberts.

Sermon by Rev. Harvey Giddens.

Scripture reading I Cor. 1: 18-31.

Theme: "The Power of God".

Telling us first. We must get into the Spirit of the Lord, have real Salvation, have the power of God demonstrated in our hearts, to accept the power of God to be a Christian. And we must not be a shame to have the holy Spirit in our hearts. Ending in stating 'If God be for us who can be invitation for prayer was given.

Dismissed by Rev. Lamar Parrish.

#### THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20, 1955

Open service with congregation singing.

Prayer: Rev. A. L. Sellars.

Song—"Kneel at the Cross".

Devotional: Rev. Mance Cason

Scripture: Matt. 6:16-23.

Motion and carried that we table miscellaneous business in order to welcome visitors.

Resume business.

Motion and carried that M. H. Hinson be re-enstated as member of Executive Committee for 5 years.

Rev. W. A. Sellars having moved to another association, it was necessary to elect a new member on Ordaining Council.

Motion and carried that this be done acclamation. Rev. Harvey Giddens elected.

Examining of Rev. J. D. Barfield, Pavo, Ga., who asked to come into our body was done by Ordaining Council, with E. T. Roberson, Thomasville, Ga., as witness.

#### DELEGATES TO SISTER ASSOCIATIONS ELECTED AS FOLLOWS:

Little River: M. H. Hinson.

Ga. Union: Walter Sloan.

Chattahoochee: Lamar Rayburn.

South Ga.: C. J. Faison.

Martin: Lamar Parrish.

State: Mrs. J. B. Rice and T. E. Bundy.

National: Mrs. Jaunita Lardoie.

Motion and Carried that clerk insert in minutes the fact that all ordained ministers are standing delegates to Local and State Association.

## THE UNITED FREE WILL BAPTISTS

Motion and carried that we adjourn for the preaching hour.

Congregational singing led by C. J. Faison.

Sermon by Rev. G. D. Roberts.

Scripture: Matt. 24:15. 1 John 2:27.

Theme—Why We Need Jesus.

Welcome address by pastor.

Dismissed for lunch by Rev. Drew Floyde.

Noon

Reassemble.

Opening song: "Have a Little Talk With Jesus".

Prayer by Rev. B. W. Clenny.

Devotional by Lamar Parrish.

Scripture: St. John 1: 1:13.

### OPEN FOR BUSINESS

Motion and carried that our next session be held at 2 churches in place of one. Will meet at Bay on Wednesday and Wednesday night, at Midway on Thursday.

Motion and carried that 3 people be elected as trustees for a fund loan plan, to be established by this body. Namely: C. J. Faison, Walter Sloan, Boyd Tucker.

Motion and carried that all Deacon's name and addresses be placed in Minutes.

Motion and carried that a delegate from each church suggest the amount to send from their church to clerk for printing of Minutes. Each church later sent \$5.00 each except Cairo, which sent \$3.00.

Rev. A. L. Sellars, State Promotional co-worker gave a report of his work the past year. Stating he had visited each church and taught Bible Classes in several.

Motion and carried that we give a rising vote of thanks to the hostess church for the fine way in which they entertained us.

Motion and carried that we adjourn.

Dismissed by Moderator.

### OFFICERS OF UNION MEETING FOR YEAR 1956 ARE:

C. J. Faison, Hartsfield, Ga., Mod.; Asst. Mod. Rev. Harvey Giddens, Rt. 6, Moultrie, Ga.; Sect. and Clerk Mrs. J. B. Rice, Rt. 4, Moultrie, Ga.; Asst. Clerk Curtis Gay, Hartsfield, Ga.



## NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF ORDAINED MINISTERS

0	Elder W. L. Harrell .....	Omega, Ga.
X	Elder A. L. Sellars .....	1008 W. Lafayette St., Quitman
✓	Elder Lamar Parrish .....	Rt. 4, Albany, Ga.
X	Elder Ralph Lightsey .....	Hazelhurst, Ga.
✓	Elder Obie Cone .....	Thomasville, Ga.
X	Elder W. G. Boyd .....	Rt. 3, Moultrie, Ga.
X	Elder C. L. Croft .....	Quitman, Ga.
X	Elder L. O. Lovett .....	Lenox, Ga.
✓	Elder Harvey Giddens .....	Rt. 6, Moultrie, Ga.
X	Elder I. J. Byrant .....	Pavo, Ga.
X	Elder G. D. Roberts .....	Pavo, Ga.
✓	Elder W. G. Turner .....	Cairo, Ga.
✓	Elder J. D. Barfield .....	Pavo, Ga.

## LICENTIATIES

Kenneth Faison .....	3609 Richland Ave., Nashville, Tenn.
Myrtice Goff .....	Coolidge, Ga.
Hoarce Smith .....	Box 23, Boston, Ga.
J. H. Russell .....	Thomasville, Ga.
Clyde Seawright .....	Coolidge, Ga.
Carl Cook .....	Coolidge, Ga.

## DEACONS NAME AND ADDRESS

## GREENWOOD CHURCH

H. D. Singleton .....	Camilla, Ga.
A. L. Morse .....	Camilla, Ga.
Wayman Sharp .....	Camilla, Ga.
G. T. Harvey .....	Camilla, Ga.
R. B. Harrison .....	Camilla, Ga.

## NEW HOPE CHURCH

G. D. Bradley .....	Coolidge, Ga., Rt. 2
M. L. Goff .....	Coolidge, Ga., Rt. 2
A. C. Murphy .....	822 W. Central Ave., Moultrie
Seabourn Vinson .....	55 Forrest Ave., Moultrie, Ga.
Boyd Tucker .....	8014th Ave., S.W., Moultrie, Ga.

## CAIRO CHURCH

Rufus Ward .....	419 5th Ave. N.E., Cairo, Ga.
J. F. Parrish .....	Box 208, Cairo, Ga.
Talmadge Sellars .....	4th St. N.W., Cairo, Ga.

## BETHLEHEM CHURCH

John Croft .....	Rt. 2, Pavo, Ga.
John Green Page .....	Pavo, Ga.
Elzie Boyd .....	Berlin, Ga.

## THOMASVILLE CHURCH

Hoarce Smith ..... Box 23, Boston, Ga.  
 Earl Thomas Lane ..... 332 Chalhurn St., Thomasville, Ga.  
 Earl Murkerson ..... 433 Cotton Ave., Thomasville, Ga.  
 Willy Elrod ..... Rt. 2, Thomasville, Ga.

## ST. PAUL CHURCH

J. T. K. Jones ..... Tifton, Ga.  
 J. A. Brady ..... Omega, Ga.  
 Groover Touchton ..... Omega, Ga.  
 M. A. Godwin ..... Lenox, Ga.  
 J. C. Swinson ..... Lenox, Ga.  
 Sam Jordan ..... Norman Park, Ga.

## CLEMENTS CHAPEL CHURCH

Jack Davis ..... Pelham, Ga.  
 T. E. Bundy ..... Rt. 4, Albany, Ga.

## KENNEDY CHAPEL CHURCH

Warren Hunter ..... Boston, Ga.  
 Ernest Voiner ..... Pavo, Ga.  
 Artie Cone ..... Pavo, Ga.  
 Jim Cannon ..... Pavo, Ga.  
 Clearnce Cannon ..... Pavo, Ga.

## MIDWAY CHURCH

Tillman Harper ..... Rt. 4, Moultrie, Ga.  
 Walter Sloan ..... Rt. 4, Moultrie, Ga.  
 Charles Murphy ..... Rt. 4, Moultrie, Ga.  
 Ollie Dunlap ..... Rt. 4, Moultrie, Ga.  
 E. L. Dunlap ..... 1111 10th Ave., S.E., Moultrie, Ga.  
 James Boyd ..... Rt. 2, Norman Park, Ga.

## SPRING HILL CHURCH

Lamar Rayburn ..... Baconton, Ga.  
 Paul Hayes ..... Baconton, Ga.  
 Joe Hatcher ..... Albany, Ga.  
 A. W. Holton ..... Baconton, Ga.  
 Billy Hatcher ..... Sale City, Ga.  
 Lonz Thompson ..... Sale City, Ga.

## BAY CHURCH

C. J. Faison ..... Hartsfield, Ga.  
 Wayne Faison ..... Hartsfield, Ga.  
 Curtis Gay ..... Hartsfield, Ga.  
 W. R. Tucker ..... Moultrie, Ga.



## ASSOCIATIONAL TREASURER REPORT

Received from Finance Committee .....	\$105.00
Collection at Association .....	29.25

## DISBURSEMENTS

Paid State Association .....	\$ 10.50
Paid Clerk .....	25.00
Paid Moderator .....	5.00
Writing material and express on Minutes .....	3.07
Paid for Minutes .....	92.95
Total .....	\$136.52

## UNION QUARTERLY MEETING REPORT

Received as Dues and Offerings .....	\$ 95.05
Disbursements .....	90.27
Balance in Treasurer .....	\$ 4.78

## REPORTING OF COMMITTEES

## DEVOTIONAL

We, recommended that Elder Harvey Giddens preach tonight. Elder G. D. Roberts Thursday.

Wayman Sharp, Chair.

## NOMINATIONS

We, the Nominating Committee recommend that this Association meet next session with Bay Church, Hartsfield, Ga., October 24, and Midway Church, Moultrie, Ga., October 25, with Elder Ralph Lightsey to preach the Introductory Sermon. Elder Lamar Parrish, Alternate.

## PLACES FOR THE QUARTERLY MEETINGS

Midway, January 29, Rev. Preston Truluck to preach. New Hope, April 29, Rev. W. G. Turner to preach. Greenwood, July 29, Rev. Kenneth Faison to preach. Cairo, September 30, Rev. Harvey Giddens to preach.

Mrs. C. J. Faison, Chairman.

## EDUCATION

We, your Committee on Education urge that we realize Education is source of knowledge through our summer youth camp and if more Christian Education is desired later, we recommend our Bible College at Nashville, Tennessee.

Mrs. Julia Faison, Chairman.

## DENOMINATIONAL LITERATURE

We, the Denominational Committee see the need of good literature being placed in the homes. We urge the parents to encourage the use of Christian Literature in the homes, because of the amount of comic literature being put there to poison the young minds.

We encourage the use of Sunday School, League, and Auxiliary Literature printed by our people—and study the Bible in order to know God.

Rev. A. L. Sellars, Chairman.

## AUXILIARIES

We, the Committee find 10 Churches having Sunday School, 8 with Weekly Prayer Meetings, 5 with Leagues, 2 Ladies' Auxiliary.

We urge everybody to pray for these Auxiliaries in Churches that don't have them. We believe that if they will first pray, they then, will do something about organizing these Auxiliaries which are so needed for the training of our children.

W. C. Faison, Chairman.

## TEMPERANCE

We, the Committee make the following report. That our preachers preach and practice abstaining from all wordly amusements and stress the importance of temperance to the Layman of their church.

Rev. H. W. Giddens, Chairman.

## CREDENTIALS

We, recommend that same report of last year be the same this year.

We find the Churches of this body are in fellowship with each other. The Ministers in good standing with each other and with the Association after hearing the reports read from each Church.

Roy C. Murphy, Chairman.

## FINANCE

We, your Committee on Finance make the following report: Money received at this session, dues from local churches \$115.25.

Mrs. D. V. Morey, Chairman.

## RESOLUTIONS

We, the Committee on Resolutions beg to submit the following:

1. That only active members be sent to Association and Quarterly meetings as delegates.
2. That at least one delegate be a male member.
3. That 400 copies of Minutes be printed.
4. That the Government and Ordainances be left as they are.
5. The Moderator and Clerk be paid same as last year.
6. That we adopt a loan fund for new churches being built.
7. That we adopt the following budget. Bay \$10.00; Bethlehem, \$20.00; Cairo, \$5.00; Clements Bridge, \$5.00; Midway, \$20.00; Kennedy Chapel, \$15.00; Greenwood, \$20.00; Spring Hill, \$20.00; St. Paul, \$20.00; Thomasville, \$10.00; New Hope, \$10.00. (This includes amount which was sent later as recommended.)

We would like to recommend that this Association be entertained by two churches during sessions.

That we have more Doctornial Sermons be preached in our Churches.

B. A. Faison, Chairman.

## CAMP

This is amount and how sent to me. Namely groceries \$38.83, cash \$24.00. No reply from six churches.

Wayne Faison, Chairman.

## 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 beilevers 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, repungent 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

1. 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 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, 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. Miscellaneous business.
4. Call for Petitionary Letters.
5. Invite visiting brethren to seats with us.
6. Call Corresponding Messengers.
7. Appoint Committeees: (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. Elect a Moderator, Assistant Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer by ballot every 2 years.
11. Adjournment.