

**1973**  
**MINUTES**  
of the  
**48TH SESSION**  
**UNION ASSOCIATION**  
of the  
**ORIGINAL FREEWILL BAPTIST**  
convened with  
**SYLVESTER, THOMASVILLE, BAY**  
**AND BETHLEHEM**

**OFFICERS**

James Ursrey .....	Moderator
C. J. Faison .....	Ass't. Moderator
Mrs. Helen Lewis .....	Clerk-Treasurer
Mrs. Opal Hatcher .....	Ass't. Clerk-Treasurer

**EXECUTIVE OFFICERS**

James Jennings .....	1974
Guyton Adams .....	1975
Farrell Tucker .....	1976
R. B. Harrison .....	1977
Curtis Gay .....	1978

**ORDAINING COUNCIL**

W. J. Plymel .....	1974
C. B. Dowdney .....	1975
W. G. Turner .....	1976

## STANDING BOARDS

### MISSION BOARD

W. J. Bramble	New Hope, 1974
Homer Croft	Thomasville, 1974
Curtis Gay	Bay, 1974
Abron Harrell	Cairo, 1974
R. B. Harrison	Greenwood, 1974
Fred Lasseter	Moultrie, 1976
Bobby Merritt	Bethlehem, 1976
William S. Lewis	Midway, 1976
James Silvers	Spring Hill, 1976
M. C. Powell	Poulan, 1976
	Sylvester, 1976

### ROLL OF ORDAINED MINISTERS

Rev. W. J. Plymen	205 3rd Ave. W. W., Cairo, Georgia 31728
Rev. Charles Lasseter	Rt. 1, Moultrie, Georgia 31768
Rev. James Osborn	Route 6, Moultrie, Georgia 31768
Rev. Homer Croft	Cassidy Road, Rt. 3, Thomasville, Georgia
Rev. W. G. Turner	1390 Ben Hill Ave., Cairo, Georgia
Rev. James Ursrey	Rt. 4, Moultrie, Georgia
Rev. Floyd Dalton	Moultrie, Georgia
Rev. Myrtice Goff	Rt. 2, Coolidge, Georgia
Rev. C. B. Dowdney	Moultrie, Georgia
Rev. Elzie Franks	Rt. 1, Sylvester, Georgia
Rev. A. J. Cox	Sylvester, Georgia
Rev. Leonard Ogletree	1005 Pineview Ave., Tifton, Georgia

### ROLL OF LICENSED MINISTERS

Rev. Joe B. Walker	Moultrie, Georgia
Rev. Murray Giddens	Tifton, Georgia
Rev. C. M. Powell	Poulan, Georgia

### ASSOCIATIONAL CALENDAR

Cairo	February 2, 1974
Greenwood	May 4, 1974
Midway	August 3, 1974
Moultrie	October 26, 1974

# ROLL OF DEACONS

## **BAY:**

C. J. Faison . . . . . Rt. 1, Hartsfield, Georgia  
 Curtis Gay . . . . . Rt. 1, Hartsfield, Ga.  
 Robert Tucker . . . . . Rt. 1, Hartsfield, Georgia

## **BETHLEHEM:**

Earl Truet . . . . . Moultrie, Georgia  
 Ernest Croft . . . . . Pavo, Georgia  
 Elzie Boyd . . . . . Berlin, Georgia  
 H. C. Croft . . . . . Berlin, Georgia  
 Don Croft . . . . . Berlin, Georgia  
 Jimmy Croft . . . . . Moultrie, Georgia

## **CAIRO:**

Abron Harrell . . . . . Cairo, Georgia  
 J. W. Watson . . . . . Cairo, Georgia  
 Melton Harrell . . . . . Cairo, Georgia  
 A. K. Lowe . . . . . Cairo, Georgia  
 Warner Wisham . . . . . Cairo, Georgia  
 Roy Copeland . . . . . Ochlochnee, Georgia

## **GREENWOOD:**

R. B. Harrison . . . . . Camilla, Georgia  
 Amos Morse . . . . . Camilla, Georgia

## **MIDWAY:**

Charles Anderson . . . . . Pavo, Georgia  
 Marion Green . . . . . Moultrie, Georgia  
 Tillman Harper . . . . . Moultrie, Georgia  
 Tillman Harper . . . . . Moultrie, Georgia  
 Charles Murphy . . . . . Moultrie, Georgia  
 Kenneth Murphy . . . . . Moultrie, Georgia  
 Walter Sloan . . . . . Moultrie, Georgia  
 E. L. Dunlap . . . . . Moultrie, Georgia  
 William Lewis . . . . . Moultrie, Georgia

## **MOULTRIE:**

Ollie Lewis . . . . . Moultrie, Georgia  
 Tom Tyree . . . . . Moultrie, Georgia  
 Wiley Coley . . . . . Moultrie, Georgia  
 Frank Patterson . . . . . Moultrie, Georgia

## **NEW HOPE:**

Dewey Hannon . . . . . Moultrie, Georgia  
 Murphy Lanier . . . . . Coolidge, Georgia  
 Lloyd Carlton . . . . . Coolidge, Georgia  
 Edgar McMurphy . . . . . Moultrie, Georgia  
 Bryant Tillman . . . . . Moultrie, Georgia

## **POULAN:**

Elmon Tidwell . . . . . Poulan, Georgia  
 D. L. Harris . . . . . Ty Ty, Georgia  
 Wayne Carlton . . . . . Florida

Sonny Powell . . . . . Sylvester, Georgia  
Harlie Parker . . . . . Poulan, Georgia

**SPRING HILL:**

James Silvers . . . . . Albany, Georgia  
Billy Hatcher . . . . . Baconton, Georgia

**ST. PAUL:**

**SYLVESTER:**

James Jennings . . . . . Sylvester, Georgia

**THOMASVILLE:**

**FEBRUARY 3, 1973**

The Union Association of Freewill Baptist met with the Sylvester Freewill Baptist Church as Hosts. Rev. C. B. Dowdney, Moderator, called the Meeting to order at 10:00 A.M. Meeting opened with congregational singing led by Brother C. J. Faison.

The Moderator instructed the Association as to an orderly and Christian procedure for carrying on business.

The Roll Call of Churches was made and the proposed Delegates names from the churches were called. Standing Delegates moved and seconded to seat Church Delegates. The move was carried by a majority of the voting Delegates. Church Delegates \* \* \*

Moved, seconded, and carried that the chair appoint the Committees. Finance Committee: Sister Helen Lewis, Brother R. B. Harrison, and Brother Guyton Adams. The Digest Committee: Brother C. J. Faison, Brother W. S. Lewis, and Brother Richard Smith.

Visitors were recognized and welcomed. There were 3 from other Associations, 4 visiting Ministers. Rev. Rufus Coffey, Executive Secretary of the National Association was recognized as a visitor.

A move to adopt the Program was made. The theme was "Keeping Back a Part from God" . . . Scripture: Acts 5:2 ". . . and kept back part of the price his wife also being privy to it, and brought a certain part, and laid it at the apostles' feet." The program is to be followed as near as possible with substitutions when necessary. The move was seconded and carried. Rev. A. C. Truluck dismissed the session in prayer for a brief intermission at 10:40 A.M.

The meeting reconvened at 11:00 A.M. with Congregational singing and prayer, followed by Special Music by the Ross Family. Rev. A. C. Truluck introduced our National Executive Secretary, Rev. Rufus Coffey, who brought the morning message. Rev. Coffey spoke briefly before the message about our National Association. A new Report Copy is being prepared for our Associational Meetings. It will have four copies, one for the Church, one for the District Association, one for the State Convention, and one for the National Association. He described the National Association as a joint effort of over 2300 Churches to carry out the instructions of Matthew 28: 19, 20: "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen."

Brother Elzie Franks, Sylvester Pastor, welcomed delegates and visitors from other churches to lunch. Rev. Ogletree dismissed the session at the Noon Hour and asked God's blessings on the food.

The meeting reconvened at 1:15 P.M. with Congregational singing and prayer. Special singing by members of the Sylvester Church followed.

The Devotional was taken from Romans 6: 3, 4. Rev. W. J. Plymel substituted for Rev. W. G. Turner.

The Digest Committee report was received. Moved, seconded and carried to accept the report. \*\*\*

The Finance Committee reported a Balance brought forward of \$144.40. Dues and offerings from Representing Churches was \$71.00 making a total of \$215.40. The 1971 Minutes are to be completed in about 2 weeks and will cost approximately \$150.00. Moderators fee is \$5.00. This will leave a balance of approximately \$60.00.

Rev. Lewis Williams gave a report of the State Mission Work. State Missions are now in Athens, Statesboro, and Swainsboro. Decatur Mission has now officially been organized as a Church. March is Target City Month in State Missions work with Athens as Target City.

Rev. A. C. Truluck reported for the State Promotional Office. Churches are asked to send the National Association ½ Expense Money into the State Office in February. (\$.50 per member or a special offering). Bible School Kits are available now and should be ordered as soon as possible. A State General Board Meeting is to be held at Camp Mount Bethel on February 10.

The old question about preparing the Program was discussed again with the main complaint being that persons on the program were not being notified in advance. There was a move and second that the meetings be held as before in the churches according to alphabetical order and that the Ministers be listed in alphabetical order to be used in this order as speakers in the Associational Meetings. The host church to be in charge of printing programs and notifying people. This plan is to be implemented starting with the August meeting. The motion was carried.

The next meeting will be in the Thomasville Church. The Host Church and Associational Officers are to prepare the next Program.

There was a move and second that it is the responsibility of the individual church to ordain their deacons. The move was carried. This move was made due to The Cairo Church requesting in their letter that a Deacon be ordained. The Associational Ordaining Council will be happy to assist Churches with Ordination Services at the request of the Church.

Moved, seconded, and carried by a rising vote that we express our appreciation to Sylvester FWB Church for their wonderful Hospitality.

Moved, seconded, and carried to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

C. B. Dowdney, Moderator

Helen L. Lewis, Clerk

## CHURCH DELEGATES

### BAY CHURCH

C. J. Faison  
Mrs. C. J. Faison  
Gene Sellers

### BETHLEHEM

Guyton Adams  
Bill McCoy  
Mrs. Bertie Mae Davis

### CAIRO

Earl Bone  
Mrs. Dean Roberson  
Mrs. Larry Watson  
Larry Watson

**GREENWOOD CHURCH**

Mrs. Eva Hutto  
 Mrs. A. L. Morse  
 Mrs. A. L. Morse  
 Mrs. R. B. Harrison

**POULAN**

Mrs. Clyde Powell  
 Mrs. Mary Willis  
 Clyde Powell

**MIDWAY**

Mrs. Ann Lewis  
 W. S. Lewis, Jr.

W. S. Lewis

**SYLVESTER CHURCH**

James Gannon  
 Victor Hufstetler  
 Mrs. Dean Perrymore

**MOULTRIE**

Richard Smith

Mrs. Flora Bass  
 Ms. Mary Bass

**DIGEST REPORT**

Delegates Present	Church	Offering
3	Poulan	\$15.00
2	Thomasville	10.00
4	Cairo	7.50
3	Bethlehem	3.00
2	Greenwood	5.00
3	Bay	5.50
3	Midway	10.00
1	Moultrie	10.00
3	Sylvester	5.00
1	Springhill	
<u>25</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>\$71.00</u>

1. Cairo FWB Church requested that Brother Larry Watson be ordained as a Deacon. (See minutes for decision)

2. Cairo Church sent \$.50 per member for National Associational Expenses in Macon next summer. This made total money \$102.00. \$31.00 of Cairo money was given to the Promotional Secretary of Georgia.

3. The Digest Committee recommends that the clerk be paid \$10.00 and the Moderator \$5.00.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Smith  
 Jack Faison  
 Bill Lewis

**MAY 5, 1973**

The Union Association of Freewill Baptist met with the Thomasville Freewill Baptist Church on May 5, 1973. The meeting was opened with Congregational singing led by Rev. Homer Croft, Prayer was offered by Rev. Leonard Ogletree. The Morning Devotion was brought by the Rev. Julian Vickers; Scripture: 1 Corinthians 1: 10-14 — Remarks regarding the pitfalls of the early Christians compared to us today.

The meeting was called to order by the Moderator, Rev. C. B. Dowdney . . . The minutes were read. M/S/C to adopt. M/S/C that the chair appoint the following Committees: Digest Committee: Rev. C. J. Plymetl, Mrs. R. B. Harrison, and Enoch Parrish . . . Finance Committee: C.

J. Faison, Mrs. Ernest Croft, and Fred Lasseter. M/S/C to adopt the program subject to any necessary changes. Dismissed for Intermission with Prayer by Rev. ZHomer Croft.

### INTERMISSION

Reconvened with congregational singing and Prayer by Mr. Bobby Johnson. Honored with special music by "The Gospel Messengers". Then Rev. James Ursrey sang "The King is Coming".

The Messenger for the hour was introduced by the Moderator. The Rev. W. G. Turner using Luke 1: 1-20 and keying on Verse 17b on being prepared . . . The Lord blessed in a wonderful way.

Rev. Homer Croft made remarks concerning lunch and needs of visitors. Dismissed with Prayer by Rev. C. J. Plymel.

### LUNCH

Reconvened at 1:15 P.M. with two numbers by the "Kinsman Quarter". Devotion by Rev. Lewis Williams, Secretary of the State Mission Board: Scripture: Matthew 28:16-20

The Union Association Mission Board reported with a plan declaring June as Missions Month with details to be revealed later. M/S/C to receive the Mission Board Report and to commend the Board for their work.

Georgia State Promotional Secretary A. C. Truluck gave his report. M/S/C to receive his report.

Rev. Howard Hensley, Pastor of Bay FWB Church, reported on the Christian Supply Store.

Brother Fred Lasseter encouraged each of us to attend the National Association. Moderator commented on special seasons of prayer in behalf of the National Association.

Digest Committee reported: Eight churches and 18 Delegates reporting. M/S/C to adopt.

Finance Committee reported: \$61.50 received. M/S/C to adopt.

Ordaining Council reported: M/S/C to adopt. (See Report)

M/S/C to give Host Church a rising vote of thanks for the fine food and hospitality. M/S/C to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. C. B. Dowdney, Moderator

Rev. James Ursrey, Assistant Clerk

### REPORT OF ORDAINING COUNCIL

The Ordaining Council met and organized as follows: Rev. W. G. Turner, Chairman; Rev. A. C. Truluck, Secretary.

1. Inasmuch as it has been reported to us that Rev. Paul Verhine has withdrawn his membership from Sylvester Freewill Baptist Church and inasmuch as he has expressed intentions of changing his affiliation to the Independent Baptist and accepting their doctrine, we write Brother Verhine and request that he surrender his Credentials to this Ordaining Council.

2. Rev. Howard Hensley comes before the board requesting membership in our Association. We recommend he be accepted into our fellowship pending a letter of recommendation from his former Association, St. Francis County Quarterly Meeting of Missouri.

W. G. Turner, Chairman  
A. C. Truluck, Secretary  
Julian Vickers  
C. B. Dowdney

## AUGUST 4, 1973

The Union Association of Freewill Baptist met with the Bay Freewill Baptist Church, Route 1, Hartsfield, Georgia on August 4, 1973.

The meeting opened with Congregational singing led by Brother C. J. Faison, followed by prayer by Rev. M. J. Plymel. Rev. Plymel, substituting for Rev. Homer Croft, also brought the Morning Devotion speaking on Acts 1:10.

Rev. C. B. Dowdney, Moderator announced three changes in the Program. The changes were substitutions in speakers for the Morning and Afternoon Devotions and the Morning Worship Service.

The minutes were read. M/S/C to adopt. Letters of Commendation recommending Rev. Howard Hensley and Rev. Leonard Ogletree were received from St. Francis County Quarterly Meeting of Missouri and the Little River Association of Georgia. M/S/C to receive them in full fellowship. M/S/C to seat the church Delegates. M/S/C for the Chair to appoint the Finance Committee and the Digest Committee. Finance Committee: Mrs. Helen Lewis, Mrs. Vera Mae Hatcher, and Rev. W. G. Turner. Digest Committee: Brother Leonard Ogletree, Brother Curtis Gay, Brother M. C. Powell, and Sister Inez Harrell.

M/S/C that the Union Association instruct the Union Mission Board to send \$500.00 (Five Hundred Dollars) to the National Home Mission Board and that this money be designated to the Mexico Missions to be used to build a church for Rev. Felix Zuniga and his congregation. Also that we recommend to the churches that they obtain special offerings to help replace this money.

Since the meeting was running ahead of schedule, Rev. A. C. Truluck was asked to report on the Promotional Office. He reported a wonderful increase in Denominational Giving during the past year and then spoke briefly on Luke 14:15 concerning churches with one accord making excuses and becoming Self-Centered. Warned of the dangers involved in the Independent Movements now going on.

Dismissed with prayer by Rev. Howard Hensley for a brief intermission.

Reconvened at 11:25 A.M. with congregational singing led by Brother C. J. Faison. Prayer was offered and then we had special music by the Bay Freewill Baptist Youth Choir directed by Mrs. Jan Parker. Rev. Jim Osborne brought the Morning Message and spoke on the dangers of Traditionalism.

Rev. Howard Hensley invited visitors to lunch and we adjourned at 12:30.

Reconvened at 1:30 P.M. with Congregational Singing and Prayer by Brother James Powell. Rev. Howard Hensley gave the afternoon devotion using the Theme "In Search of a Man". Scripture: Ezekiel 22:30.

Rev. Hensley then gave a report on the Christian Supply Store stating that from a beginning inventory one year ago of \$3900.00, our Supply Store now has an inventory of over \$23,000.00. Also he asked that our people please enquire when we need any books, Bibles, etc. or anything pertaining to our worship services and our churches and when possible to



purchase them through the Supply Store.

Rev. A. C. Truluck gave the State Mission Board Report in the absence of Rev. Lewis Williams. He stated that there are 1500 more ordained Freewill Baptist Preachers than we have Freewil Baptist Churches. Yet there are over 300 Churches without Pastors. Freewill Baptist Ministers and Laymen need to pray for a vision.

Finance Committee reports: \$49.00 offering, \$150.90 balance in Treasury.

Digest Committee reports: 8 churches represented, 17 delegates.

M/S/C to adopt these reports.

Brother C. B. Dowdney reported for the Christian Education and Camping Board. Brother Franks is retiring at the end of this year and the Board is praying that the Lord will send us a Christian Couple who will qualify as a jack of all trades as Camp Overseer.

Brother Curtis Gay announced that due to shortage of materials the new plumbing in the girl's restroom has been delayed but will be completed as soon as materials are received. He also urged churches to rally behind this project and help with the financing.

Brother James Powell, Union Mission Board Chairman, asked prayer that God would send men to lead in missions to make this a more active board in the work of the Lord.

A request was received from Brother Howard Hensley for his letter of Commendation since he is leaving in three weeks for a new pastorate in Blackwell, Oklahoma. M/S/C to give Brother Hensley a commendation to the new Associational Meeting in Oklahoma.

Rev. A. C. Truluck objected to the way the Associational Speakers were being obtained and voiced an opinion; that some Laymen should be used. After rereading in the Minutes in which the plan was adopted, settlement of this issue was postponed until the Annual Session in October.

M/S/C to give Bay Church a rising vote of thanks for their Hospitality.

Brother Curtis Gay spoke briefly about the Children's Home. It now houses about 35 children. Harvest Drive will be in October.

M/S/C to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

C. B. Dowdney, Moderator  
Helen S. Lewis, Clerk

## CHURCH DELEGATES

### **Bay Freewill Baptist Church**

Mrs. Louvenia Kleedehm  
Mrs. Janice Parker

### **Cairo Church**

Earl Bone  
Mrs. Linda Watson  
Mrs. Inez Harrell

### **Midway Church**

Mr. & Mrs. W. S. Lewis Sr.

### **Bethlehem Freewill Baptist Church**

Moody Griffin  
Mrs. Juanita LaBadie

### **Greenwood Church**

Mr. & Mrs. R. B. Harrissn

### **Poulan Church**

James Powell  
M. C. Powell

## Springhill Church

Mrs. Courtney Morey  
Mrs. Vera Mae Hatcher

## Sylvester Church

Mr. & Mrs. James Jennings

### OCTOBER 27, 1973

The Union Association met October 27, 1973 at the Bethlehem Freewill Baptist Church, Berlin, Georgia for its annual Business Meeting. The theme "Pray for Revival" with Scripture from 11 Chronicles 7:14 "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sins, and will heal their land."

The meeting was called to order by the Moderator, Rev. James Ursrey led in congregational singing followed by prayer led by Brother C. J. Faison. Devotion was taken from Philippians 4:13 with Rev. James Ursrey substituting for Rev. Myrtice Goff.

Visitors were welcomed and a motion was carried to seat the Church Delegates.

Committees were appointed: Finance Committee, Mrs. Helen Lewis, Mrs. Latrelle Potts, Brother M. C. Powell. Resolutions Committee: Brother C. J. Faison, Mrs. Vera Hatcher, Ms. Donie Ruff. Digest Committee: Rev. Julian Vickers, Mrs. Bessie Powell, Mrs. Bill McCoy. Nominating Committee: Brother Guyton Adams, Mrs. Jolene Lasseter, Rev. James Ursrey.

No petitionary letters were submitted, so the proposed Associational Minutes Revision Committee reported on the proposed Revisions. These were read and laid on the table to be acted on in the afternoon.

After a short intermission the meeting reconvened with congregational singing and prayer led by Rev. Julian Vickers. Special Music was presented by Rev. James Ursrey singing "Fill My Cup Lord". Rev. M. J. Plymel brought a wonderful message presenting our theme "Pray For Revival".

Rev. Leonard Ogletree, Pastor of Bethlehem Church, welcomed visitors and extended an invitation to lunch. Brother Billy Hatcher dismissed the meeting with prayer and thanks.

Reconvening after lunch with congregational singing and devotion led by Rev. Leonard Ogletree.

Committee Reports were given: Digest Committee (See Report) M/S/C to accept. Resolutions Committee (See Report) M/S/C to accept. Finance Committee (See Report) M/S/C to accept.

M/S/C to suggest that 48 cents per member per year be the Annual Association Representation Dues, and that this be inserted in the proper place in the Association Constitution. This fee may be broken down to 12 cents per member per quarter.

Rev. James Ursrey gave a partial report of the Children's Home Harvest Drive with 6 churches reporting Cash Donations of \$651.21 and Commodity Donations of \$874.53.

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Nominating Committee reported (See Report). M/S/C to accept  
No new nominees were presented. M/S/C to elect Committee  
Nominees by acclamation.

Rev. James Ursrey, Union Association Representative on the State  
Budgeting Board spoke briefly to ascertain the feelings of the people about  
the percentage of money going to the National Association from our State  
Cooperative Fund. Consensus of the people to reduce the amount leaving  
the state.

The Moderator welcomed Rev. Murray Giddens of Faith Temple  
Mission in Tifton and also a delegation from the mission.

Rev. C. B. Dowdney, State Promotional Office spoke briefly about  
"Elijah's gone, Elisha has taken his place." He commended the Union  
Association as the Top Association in the state in per capita giving. Bay  
Church is No. 1.

M/S/C to appoint a committee to draw up a Constitutional  
Amendment or Addition concerning Church & Ministers Representation at  
the Association. Committee is Brother C. J. Faison, Rev. Leonard Ogletree  
and Brother Sonny Powell.

M/S/C to read the Minutes Revisson and if no one objected and there  
was no discussion, the minutes would be revised as read. The changes  
were all passed and are to be entered in the 1973 Minutes.

M/S/C to transfer \$1000.00 from the Union Association Mission  
Board to the State Board of Trustees to be used in the remodeling of the  
camp at Ashburn.

M/S/C to give Brother A. C. Truluck a letter of Commendation to  
Georgia Union Association.

Delegates appointed to the State Association are Mrs. Helen Lewis,  
Mrs. Opal Hatcher, Mrs. Janice Ursrey, Mrs. Ruby Faison, and Brother  
Guyton Adams.

No further business the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

C. B. Dowdney, Moderator  
Helen L. Lewis, Clerk-Treasurer

A request from Poulan Freewill Baptist Church to the Ordaining  
to examine and recommend Brother M. C. Powell for licensing to the  
ministry.

The Ordaining Council examined Brother Powell and recommended  
that he be licensed.

## UNION MISSION BOARD Financial Report

**OCTOBER 27, 1973**

Brought Forward, November, 1972 .....	\$1958.71
Receipts from all Sources .....	871.10
Total .....	<u>\$2829.81</u>

### Disbursements:

State Missions — Swainsboro .....	\$600.00
National Home Missions — Mexico .....	500.00

Evangelists for Missions Revivals .....	150.00
Savings Account .....	<u>1500.00</u>
Total Disbursements .....	2750.00
Balance in Checking Account .....	79.81
Savings Account .....	1500.00
Interest .....	<u>55.92</u>
Balance in Mission Board Account .....	\$1635.73

## UNION ASSOCIATION FINANCE REPORT

**October 27, 1973**  
**November 14, 1973**

Balance Brought Forward, November 16, 1972 .....	\$166.85
Associational Dues, February 3, 1973 .....	102.00
(Included Cairo's Nat. Assoc. Dues)	
Associational Dues, May 5, 1973 .....	61.50
Associational Dues, August 4, 1973 .....	49.00
Associational Dues, October 27, 1973 .....	91.24
Freewill Offering, October 27, 1973 .....	<u>26.87</u>
Total Cash to account for .....	\$497.46

### Associational Expense & Disbursements:

Christian Supply Store .....	\$ 22.45
(Bible for Ordination Service)	
Georgia State Association Office .....	31.00
(Cairo's Nat Assoc. Dues Expense)	
Christian Supply Store .....	175.00
(Union Assoc. Minutes)	
Georgia State Association .....	40.00
(Representation Fee)	
Total Disbursements .....	268.45
Balance on Hand .....	\$229.01

## DIGEST COMMITTEE REPORT

We your digest committee find 8 churches representing, 9 ministers on roll, 62 members received, 43 members lost. Five churches have Auxiliaries, eight Sunday Schools, six Church Training Services, seven Prayer Meetings, five Vacation Bible Schools. There are 43 ordained deacons on roll.

Julian B. Vickers  
Mrs. Bessie Powell  
Mrs. Billie F. McCoy

**Oxtober 27, 1973**

## RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

1. We the resolutions committee recommend the same resolutions that are written in the 1972 Minutes and encourage that these resolutions be carried out in its entirety, rather than adding others and failing to carry them out.

a. Since there is a marked increase in obscene literature being published and displayed in local news stands and television viewing becoming increasingly more suggestive of pornography in its programs: (1) we ask that our people become actively engaged in community action against the distribution of pornography and (2) that we encourage our people to report to the U.S. Post Office any receipt of Pornographic Literature received through the mail and (3) to tactfully express our disapproval to neighborhood stores carrying such literature and (d) that we encourage more selective viewing of television at home and express our views on local television programs against suggestive films being shown.

b. That we as Christians still stand firm against legalization of alcoholic beverages and other intoxicating forms of drugs.

c. That we ask our clerk to write each church clerk in our association encouraging pastors and deacons to become more active in associational work.

2. Be it resolved that we extend a rising vote of thanks to Bethlehem Church for their fine hospitality shown to this session of the Association.

C. J. Faison  
Mrs. Donna Ruff  
Mrs. Vera Hatcher

October 27, 1973

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

We the nominating committee wish to submit the following to you for election as your new officers.

Rev. James Ursrey, Moderator to replace Rev. C. B. Dowdney.

Mrs. Opal Hatcher, Assistant Clerk-Treasurer to replace Rev. James Ursrey.

Curtis Gay, Executive Committee Member to replace himself.

Farrell Tucker, Executive Committee Member to replace Walter Sloan.

Rev. W. J. Plymel, Ordaining Council Member, to replace Rev. Julian Vickers.

C. J. Faissn, State Board of Christian Education and Camping Member to replace Rev. C. B. Dowdney.

Guyton Adams, Chairman  
Mrs. Jolene Lasseter  
Rev. James Ursrey

October 27, 1973

## ORDER OF ASSOCIATIONAL BUSINESS

1. The body at each session shall be opened and closed with prayer.

2. Call for church letters and the Clerk shall read the names of Delegates to determine if they are present.

3. Call for Petitionary Letters.

4. Invite visiting brethren to seats with us.

5. Call for Corresponding Messengers.

6. Appointment of Committees: (a) Digest Committee, (b) Resolutions Committee, (c) Finance Committee, (d) Nominating Committee.

7. Miscellaneous business.

8. Unfinished business.

9. Report of committees.
10. Elect a Moderator, Assistant Moderator, Clerk-Treasurer, and Assistant Clerk-Treasurer every two years.
11. Adjournment.

## **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 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 many.

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 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 heresay.

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 the hands of the presbytery and prayer, without which they are not authorized to administer the ordinances pertaining to their respective officers.

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 an 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 monthly meeting if desired, which shall be the regular time for 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 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 has applied for a letter and could not obtain it because he desired to join this or some other 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 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 becomes 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, 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 being 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.

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 after laying on the table from one continued to the next.

## CHURCH COVENANT

1. Having given ourselves to God, by faith in Christ and adopted the word of God as our rule of faith and practice, we now give ourselves to one another by the will of God in this solemn covenant.

2. We promise by His grace to love and obey Him in all things, to avoid all appearance of evil, to abstain from all sinful amusements and unholy conformity to the world, from all sanction of the use and sale of intoxicating beverages, and to "provide things honest in the sight of all men."

3. We agree faithfully to discharge our obligations in reference to the study of the Scriptures, secret prayer, family devotions, and social worship; and by self-denial, faith and good works endeavor to "grow in grace and the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

4. We will not forsake the assembling of ourselves together for church conferences, public worship, and the observance of the ordinances of the Gospel, nor fail to pay according to our ability for the support of the church, of its poor and all its benevolent work.

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

6. We will everywhere hold Christian principle sacred and Christian obligations and enterprises supreme, counting it our chief business in life to extend the influence of Christ in society, constantly praying and toiling that

the Kingdom of God may come, and His will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

7. To this end we agree to labor for the promotion of educational and denominational enterprises, the support of missions, the success of Sunday schools and evangelistic efforts for the salvation of the world. And may the God of peace sanctify us wholly, and preserve us blameless into the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

## **ASSOCIATION DECORUM**

1. The officers of this Association shall be elected at the close of last session of the even calendar year.

2. Any person wishing to speak shall rise and address the moderator and be recognized before speaking. He shall confine himself to the question under consideration and avoid personalities.

3. No person shall speak more than twice on any subject without permission from the moderator.

4. No motion shall be withdrawn after its discussion and must receive a majority vote for passage.

5. When a question is under discussion no motion shall be received except to lay on the table or to amend. Motions shall be preferred in the order in which they were stated.

6. Appointments shall be made by the moderator unless requested otherwise by the body itself.

7. Members wishing to be excused from the session shall request permission from the moderator.

8. The Association has a right to decide what matters shall be admitted for its consideration.

9. When a church desires that one of its members should be licensed to preach the gospel, the church should request that the ordaining church examine such member. Examination to be in accordance with that of Treatise of the Faith and Practices of the Original Free Will Baptists and other regulations as set forth in the Constitution of this body.

10. After examination the council submits its recommendation to the church which requested the examination and the church has the final approval of licensing the candidate and issuing his credentials.

11. No licentiate shall be ordained until having served at least six months as a licentiate. Ordination shall be done by the Associations Ordaining Council upon request of his home church or church to which he is called to serve or by virtue of a call to some specific Christian labors which would require ordination.

12. Ministers from other denominations who join a Free Will Baptist Church and desires to continue in the ministry must follow the same procedures for licensing and ordination as those for a licentiate.

13. This decorum may be amended at any session of the association by a majority vote.

## ASSOCIATION CONSTITUTION

1. This Association shall hereafter be known as the Union Association of Original Free Will Baptist.
2. This body shall meet alphabetically the first Saturday in Feb., May, Aug., and October.
  - (a) It shall not adjourn formally until all business is settled.
  - (b) It shall use its influence to promote a moral, spiritual and benevolent program utilizing all its institutions and auxiliaries.
3. This body shall be composed of member churches in good standing and all ordained ministers, deacons, and missionaries shall be standing delegates.
  - (a) All churches representing at this Association shall be entitled to a minimum of 3 appointed delegates plus 1 additional delegate per 100 members or fraction there of.
  - (b) 48 cents per member per year is suggested as the church representation fees. This may be broken down to be 12 cents per member per quarter.
4. Requirement of delegate: Each standing delegate shall attend each and every session of this Association.
5. Requirement of Churches: Each church shall send a report to each session using the form adopted by the Association.
6. Each church in the Association shall be considered an independent body and shall control its own internal affairs having the unrestricted right to administer its own government without supervision or interference, being under Christ essentially independent and absolute.
7. The officers of this Association shall be: Moderator, Asst. Moderator, Clerk-Treasurer, and Asst. Clerk-Treasurer and shall be elected every two years.
8. Churches wishing to become members of this association must present petitionary letters, adopt our National Treatise, and conform to its usage.
9. There shall be an executive committee composed of the officers of this association plus 5 laymen elected by the body. The elected members serve 5 year terms on a rotational basis. It shall be the duty of the executive committee to transact bussness for the association when the association is not in session. Decisions made by the executive committee shall be subject to final approval by the association and must be recorded in the minutes. The executive committee may be called into session by the moderator or asst. moderatoras the need arises.
10. There shall be a mission board consisting of one member from each church in the Association to serve four year terms on a rotational basis. It shall be the duty of this board to supervise the missionary program of the association, to solicit the cooperation of member churches and individuals in promoting missions interest, to receive and disperse funds in the interest of missions support. A detailed report of this boards work shall be submitted to the last regular session of the association each year and shall be included in the minutes.
11. This constitution may be altered or amended at any regular session of this association by a majority vote.

12. There shall be an ordaining council composed of three ordained ministers belonging to this association. Members of this council shall be elected by the association for a 3 year term on a rotation basis. The duty of this council shall be to examine candidates for the ministry according to rules set forth in the association decorum. An annual report shall be submitted to the clerk of the association for inclusion in the minutes.

## 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 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. 2:3, 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, 5. 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; I Tim. 2:4.

6. We believe that no man shall suffer in hell for want of Christ who does 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 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; as. 5:14.

16. We believe the Gospel mode of baptism is by immersion, and that the believers are the only subject 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 the clerk shall read the names of Delegates to determine if they are present.
3. Miscellaneous business.

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1. The body at each session shall be opened and closed with prayer.
2. Call for church letters and the clerk shall read the names of Delegates to determine if they are present.
3. Call for Petitionary Letters.
4. Invite visiting brethren to seats with us.
5. Call for Corresponding Messengers.
6. Appointment Committee: (a) Digest Committee; (b) Finance; (c) Nominations.
7. Miscellaneous business.
8. Unfinished business.
9. Report of committees.
10. Elect a Moderator, Assistant Moderator, Clerk-Treasurer and Assistant every two years.
11. Adjournment.

*Clerk: Rev. Danny Kunz  
105- Hillcrest Dr.  
Dublin, Ga. 31021*

