

Central Association Constitution and By-Laws

ARTICLE I

This Association shall be known as the Central Association of the Original Free Will Baptist of South Carolina.

ARTICLE II

The Association sponsors all quarterly meetings with the first meeting being the annual meeting composed of church delegates, ordained and licensed ministers as standing delegates. Each church may send (3) three delegates.

ARTICLE III

Section 1. The Association shall hold its annual session the first meeting in the year.

Section 2. The Association shall meet in alphabetical order.

ARTICLE IV

The officers of this Association shall be a moderator, assistant moderator, clerk, assistant clerk, treasurer, assistant treasurer, and executive member elected or re-elected, annually.

ARTICLE V

The Executive Board shall consist of (7) seven members, which shall be the moderator as he shall be the chairman, assistant moderator, clerk, assistant clerk, treasurer, assistant treasurer, and executive member. The seven members will be elected from the floor annually. The Executive Board must give their report at each association for the approval of the association.

ARTICLE VI

This Association assumes no higher authority than an advisory council.

ARTICLE VII

The Rules of Decorum shall be read immediately after the association has been called to order. The Roberts Rules of Order shall govern this association.

ARTICLE VIII

Any visiting minister or delegates may be invited to seat and take part in the worship service, without any rights in the business session.

ARTICLE IX

Section 1. Each church is to send a letter and delegates to every session and send a yearly report to the annual session.

Section 2. New churches, or churches coming from other denominations will be carefully and satisfactorily examined as of their doctrine by the Ordaining Council before being received as members.

Section 3. No Mission (independent or established by the board) shall be approved or accepted as a Mission within one mile of another Free Will Baptist Church inside the city limits, neither shall a Mission be accepted within five miles of another Free Will Baptist Church outside of the city limits.

Section 4. The association may withdraw from any church that becomes disorderly or refuses to be represented by letter or delegates.

ARTICLE X

The National Treatise of the Faith and Practices of the Original Free Will Baptist shall be used.

ARTICLE XI

Section 1. The Ordaining Council shall consist of five (5) duly ordained ministers, the council to rotate with the oldest member to be replaced each year. No minister may succeed himself.

Section 2. Any brother desiring to be licensed or ordained must have a letter of recommendation from the church of which he is a member, said church must be a member in good standing of this association.

Section 3. A minister coming from another Conference or Association must come by letter from his former conference or association.

Section 4. Each minister duly licensed or ordained must be in good standing with his church and this association to have the privilege to vote.

ARTICLE XII

This Association will encourage a sound ministry such as presents Christ as an all sufficient Savior, having salvation possible to every human being on the terms of the Gospel which is freely offered to all.

ARTICLE XIII

This Constitution may be amended at any association meeting by two-thirds vote of the delegates attending, and must be laid on the table one-association meeting prior to voting.

BY-LAWS

1. A portion of the Bible shall be read and prayer offered at the beginning of each morning and afternoon session and prayer shall be offered at the close of each session.

2. The session shall be called to order by the moderator at 9:00 AM.

3. Each meeting can have three delegates from each church.

4. The minutes of each meeting are to be published in the association minutes.

5. All Boards and Committees are to report their work in writing to be approved by the body and for publication in minutes.

6. He that desires to be licensed must come with a letter of recommendation from a church of the Central Association in good standing with the National Association of Free Will Baptist, where he is a member, stating that he has been a faithful member of said church for a period of twelve (12) months, signed by the pastor and church clerk.

(a) When a man first acknowledges his call into the ministry, the following steps should be taken:

(1) He should submit to his pastor's counsel and guidance on meeting the church's standards and qualifications.

(2) When the pastor feels that the candidate is ready, he will recommend him to the church and the church will recommend him to the association for ministerial training for a period of twelve (12) months.

(b) During this year of preparation to be licensed, he will meet with a member of the Ordaining Council quarterly where he will receive council, encouragement and instruction on the call, duties, responsibilities and rewards of the ministry.

(c) During this training period, to enhance his study of God's Word, he will read and study four (4) additional books:

(1) A Survey of the Old Testament - H. D. Harrison or similar

(2) A Survey of the New Testament - H. D. Harrison

(3) Free Will Baptist Doctrines - J. D. O'Donnell

(4) The Free Will Baptist Minister's Manual - Billy Melvin

At each meeting, he will receive mainly instructions on the book, Free Will Baptist Doctrines, from the above list of books. If he misses any scheduled meeting his process of ordination can be lengthened accordingly.

(d) When the above steps have been satisfactorily completed, he will be examined by the Ordaining Council and recommended to the association for license to preach the Gospel.

(e) Any Licensed Minister coming from another association must come by letter of good standing.

(f) A minister that has not been licensed, but has been called to pastor a church, must meet the same requirements for a minister coming under the ministerial training program; he must be licensed and then ordained after receiving license.

(g) After being licensed for a period of (12) months the minister will be ordained, upon recommendation of the Ordaining Council and approval by the Central Association.

(h) Any minister maintaining credentials with the Central Association must be a member of a church in good standing with the Central Association.

7. Any ordained minister coming from another denomination must be recommended by a church or minister in good standing with the Central Association having gone before the Ordaining Council and being recommended after meeting all the requirements of the Central Association shall be ordained.

8. Anybody who wants to unite with the body must come by letter

9. Anyone coming to this association for membership, license or ordination must meet with the Ordaining Council prior to the next association.

10. The Ordaining Council shall not license, ordain or accept: (a) Anyone who has two (2) living wives or if wife has two (2) living husbands. Scripture: Titus 1:6, and I Timothy 3:1-2.

(b) A woman or Homosexual. Scripture: Lev.18:22, Rom.1:27, I Tim.2:12

11. Any minister who makes a shipwreck of his life or brings a reproach upon himself or conference, the accuser shall present a written charge properly signed to the Ordaining Council, if proven quality shall surrender his credentials indefinitely. Any minister who shows repentance and coming before the Central Association shall prove himself for twelve (12) months before receiving credentials back. Any ordained minister who is involved in a sexual moral failure shall be considered to have seriously compromised himself as a minister and shall be asked to surrender his credentials.

12. Each minister of said association must report in person to each association meeting, but in case of an emergency a minister has one week from date of each meeting to send a written excuse to the clerk with a specified reason. All ministers who fail to conform to this ruling will go before the Ordaining Council at the next association meeting and give reason for absence. If minister fails to attend the next association meeting and go before the Ordaining Council, the

Ordaining Council shall recommend to the body what action should be taken.

13. The clerk is to inform the Ordaining Council of all ministers who do not conform to Rule Twelve (12) of the By-Laws.

14. The Executive Committee shall be charged with the responsibility for preparing the program for each association. In doing so, they shall look at the attendance record of the ministers and have the discretion to omit the minister name in the alphabetic order for preaching.

15. Election for moderator, assistant moderator, clerk, assistant clerk, treasurer, assistant treasurer, executive member, trustee board member, ordaining council member, Children's Home trustee (as needed), and delegates for the State Association (consisting of five), will be at the close of the annual association for a period of one year.

16. The dress code for ministers shall be as follows: 1. That they shall dress and professing Godliness and not worldliness. 2. Hair style shall be in accordance with I Corinthians 11:14.

17. The Executive Board and Ordaining Council to receive reimbursements of current I. R. S. allowed rate per mile with only the driver to receive the reimbursement.

18. Any church receiving a minister from another denomination or association(conference) of FWB to pastor or as a fill-in or supply is hereby requested to meet with the Ordaining Council, with church board and minister in question within 90 days.

19. That any minister leaving this association to go to another association or another state and doesn't represent to this association for one year, that his name be dropped from our roll and a letter be sent to his last known address reporting to him of our action.

20. These By-Laws may be altered or amended by two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of members present at any regular session of this association.