

**CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE ASSOCIATION
OF ORIGINAL FREE WILL BAPTISTS, INC.
[Approved Feb 25, 2005]**

PREAMBLE

We, the South Carolina State Association of Original Free Will Baptists, Inc., in order to advance the cause of the Lord Jesus Christ through fellowship and cooperation, do establish and adopt this Constitution and By-Laws.

Articles of FAITH

- (A) The Bible. The Scriptures of the Old and New Testament was given by inspiration of God and are our infallible rule of faith and practice.
- (B) God. There is one living and true God, revealed in nature as the Creator, Preserver, and Righteous Governor of the universe; and in the Scriptures as Father, Son, and Holy Ghost; yet as one God, infinitely wise and good, whom all intelligent creatures are to love, adore, and obey supremely.
- (C) Christ. Christ is God manifest in the flesh in His divine nature truly God, in human nature truly man. The mediator between God and man, once crucified, He is now risen and glorified and is our ever-present Savior and Lord.
- (D) The Holy Spirit. The Scriptures assign to the Holy Spirit all the attributes of God.
- (E) The Government of God. God exercises a wise and benevolent providence over all beings and things by maintaining the constitution and laws of nature. He also performs special acts, not otherwise provided for, as the highest welfare of men requires.
- (F) The Sinfulness of Man. Man was created innocent but by disobedience fell into a state of sin and condemnation. His posterity, therefore, inherits a fallen nature of such tendencies that all who come to years of accountability, sin and become guilty before God.
- (G) The Work of Christ. The Son of God by His incarnation, life, sufferings, death and resurrection affected for all redemption for sin that is full and free and is the ground of salvation by faith.
- (H) The Terms of Salvation. The conditions of salvation are: (a) Repentance or sincere sorrow for sin and hearty renunciation of it. (b) Faith or the unreserved committal of one's self to Christ as Savior and Lord with purpose to love and obey Him in all things. In the exercise of saving faith, the soul is renewed by the Holy Spirit, freed from the dominion of sin, and becomes a child of God. (c) Continuance in faith and obedience until death.
- (I) Election. God determined from the beginning to save all who should comply with the conditions of salvation. Hence, by faith in Christ, men become His elect.
- (J) Freedom of the Will. The human will is free and self-controlled having power to yield to the influence of the truth and the Spirit or to resist them and perish.
- (K) Salvation Free. God desires the salvation of all; the Gospel invites all; the Holy Spirit strives with all; and whosoever will may come and take of the water of life freely.
- (L) Perseverance. All believers in Christ, who through grace persevere in holiness to the end of life, have the promise of eternal salvation.

(M) Gospel Ordinances. Baptism, or the immersion of believers in water, the Lord's Supper are ordinances to be perpetuated under the Gospel. Feet Washing, an ordinance which teaches humility and reminds the believers of the necessity of a daily cleansing from all sin, is to be ministered to all true believers.

(N) Tithing. God commanded tithes and offerings in the Old Testament; Jesus endorsed it in the Gospel (Matthew 23:23); and the apostle Paul said, "Upon the first day of the week let everyone of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him." (I Corinthians 16:2). Both the Old and the New Scriptures teach tithing as God's financial plan for the support of His work. We believe that every Christian, as a steward of that portion of God's wealth entrusted to him, is obligated to support his local church financially. We believe that God has established the tithe as a basis for giving, but that every Christian should also give other offerings sacrificially and cheerfully to the support of the church, the relief of those in need, and the spread of the Gospel. We believe that a Christian relinquishes all rights to direct the use of the tithe or offering once the gift has been made (Gen. 14:20; Prov. 3:9-10; Acts 4:34-37; I Cor. 16: 2; 2 Cor. 9:6-7; Gal. 6:6; Eph. 4:28; I Tim. 5:17-18; I John 3:17).

(O) The Christian Sabbath. The divine law requires that one day in seven be set apart from secular employments and amusements for rest, worship, holy works and activities, and personal communion with God.

(P) Resurrection, Judgment, and Final Retribution. The Scriptures teach the resurrection of all men at the last day. They that have trusted Christ as their Savior will come forth to the resurrection of life, and they that have rejected Christ into the resurrection of damnation; then the wicked will "go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

(Q) The Church. – The Local Church – 1. The local congregation of believers is the only visible form of the "church" founded by the direct authority of Scripture. Free Will Baptists, therefore, recognize the local church as the sole source of authority possessed and exercised within the visible church.

2. The local church is an independent and self-governing body, with full authority to transact its business, choose its pastor and officers, receive, discipline, and dismiss members, hold free title to all its properties and conduct all its internal affairs.

(R) Separation. We believe that all the saved should live in such a manner as not to bring reproach upon their Savior and Lord; and, that separation from all religious apostasy, all worldly and sinful pleasures, practices and associations are commanded of God (Rom. 12:1-2; 14:13; 2 Cor. 6:14-7:1; 2 Tim. 3:1-5; I John 2:15-17; 2 John 9-11).

(S) The Second Advent of Christ. We believe in that "blessed hope," the personal, Imminent return of Christ Who will rapture His Church prior to the seven-year tribulation period. At the end of the Tribulation, Christ will personally and visibly return with His saints, to establish His earthly Messianic Kingdom which was promised to nation of Israel (Ps. 89:3-4; Dan. 2:31-45; Zech. 14:4-11; I Thess. 1:10; I Thess. 4:13-18; Titus 2:13; Rev. 3:10; 19-11-16; 20:1-6). However, we believe that there are other godly individuals that hold other eschatological views.

(T) Civil Government. We believe that God has ordained and created all authority consisting of four basic institutions: (1) the home; (2) the church; (3) the state and; (4) employment. Every person is subject to these authorities. but all (including the authorities themselves) are answerable to God and governed by His Word. God has given each institution specific Biblical responsibilities and balance.

(U) Human Sexuality.

1. We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of marriage between a man and a woman. We believe that any form of homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexuality, bestiality, incest, fornication, metrosexuality, adultery and pornography are sinful perversions of God's gift of sex. Any employee of the state becoming pregnant or causing pregnancy as a result of consensual intercourse, outside of the marriage relationship, shall be terminated from employment. (Gen. 2:24; Gen. 19:5, 13; Gen. 26:8-9; Lev. 18:1-30; Rom. 1:26-29; I Cor. 5:1; 6:9; I Thess. 4:1-8; Heb. 13:4).

2. We believe that the only legitimate marriage is the joining of one man and woman. (Gen. 2:24; Rom. 7:2; I Cor. 7:10; Eph. 5:22-23).

(V) Family Relationships

1. We believe that men and women are equal in position before God that God has ordained distinct and separate spiritual functions for men and women in the home and the church. The husband is to be the leader of the home and men are to be the leaders (pastors and deacons) of the church. Accordingly, only men are eligible for licensure and ordination by the church. (Gal. 3:28; Col. 3:18; I Tim.2: 8-15; 3:4-5, 12).

2. We believe that God has ordained the family as the foundational institution of human society. The husband is to love the wife as Christ loves the church. The wife is to submit herself to the scriptural leadership of her husband as the church submits to the headship of Christ. Children are an heritage from the Lord. Parents are responsible for teaching their children spiritual and moral values and leading them, through consistent lifestyle example and appropriate discipline, including scriptural corporal correction. (Gen.1:26-28; Ex. 20:12; Deut. 6:4-9; Ps. 127:3-5; Prov. 19:18; 22:15; 23:13-14; Mk. 10:6-12; I Cor. 7:1-16; Eph. 5:21-33; 6:1-4; Col. 3:18-21; Heb. 13:4; I Pet. 3:1-7).

(W) Separation – We believe that all the saved should live in such a manner as not to bring reproach upon their Savior and Lord. God commands His people to separate from all apostasy, and all worldly and sinful pleasures, practices, and associations, and to refrain from immodest and immoderate appearances. (Rom. 12:1-2; 14:13; 2 Cor. 6:14-7:1; 2 Tim. 3:1-5; I John 2:15-17; 2 John 9-11; Lev. 19:28; I Cor. 6:19-20).

(X) Divorce and Remarriage. We believe that God hates divorce and intends marriage to last until one of the spouses dies. Divorce and remarriage is regarded as adultery except on the grounds of fornication. Although divorced and remarried persons or divorced persons may hold positions of service in the church and be greatly used of God for Christian service, they are not to be considered for the office of pastor or deacon. (Mal. 2:14-17; Matt. 19:3-12; Rom. 7:1-3; I Tim. 3:2, 12; Titus 1:6).

(Y) Abortion. We believe that human life begins at conception and that the unborn child is a living human being. Abortion constitutes the unjustified, unexcused taking of unborn life. Abortion is murder. (Job 3:16; Psalms 51:5; 139:14-16; Isa. 44:24; 49:1, 5; Jer. 1:5; 20:15-18; Luke 1:44).

(Z) Missions. We believe that God has given the church a great commission to proclaim the Gospel to all nations so that there might be a great multitude from every nation, tribe, ethnic group, and language group who believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. As ambassadors of Christ we must use all available means to go to the foreign nations and not wait for them to come to us. (Matt. 28:19-20; Mark 16:15; Luke 24:46-48; John 20:21; Acts 1:8; 2 Cor. 5:20).

(AA) Lawsuits Between Believers. We believe that Christians are prohibited from bringing civil lawsuits against other Christians or the church to resolve personal disputes. We believe the church possess all the resources necessary to resolve personal disputes between members. We do believe, however, that a Christian may seek compensation for injuries from another Christian's insurance company as long as the claim is pursued without malice or slander. (I Cor. 6:1-8; Eph. 4:31-32).

ARTICLE I - NAME

This body shall be known as the South Carolina State Association of Original Free Will Baptists, Inc. (Hereinafter referred to as the State Association).

ARTICLE II - PURPOSE

It shall be the purpose of this organization, through fellowship and cooperation to:

1. Offer opportunities for extension of the ministries of its local churches, conferences or associations.
2. Promote participation in and financial support for all state ministries, for a combined effort to encourage Christian service, enhance the spiritual growth and welfare of our people, and to stress world evangelization through home and foreign mission efforts and opportunities.
3. Work in harmony with the National Association of Free Will Baptists to elect its leadership, to give financial support to all of its ministries, and to combine our efforts and energies with the Free Will Baptist denomination for the

extension of the Kingdom of God in general.

4. Give support to the South Carolina state and national Woman Active for Christ.

ARTICLE III - DISTRICT CONFERENCE OR ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP

Section One: Membership Requirements

Any district conference / association holding membership in this state association must:

1. Hold with the treatise of the faith and practices of the Original Free Will Baptists as adopted by the National Association of Free Will Baptists.
2. Pledge participatory and financial support to this State Association and its ministries as are adopted by this body.

SECTION TWO: New Membership Procedure

Any district conference / association desiring membership in this State Association must comply with the following procedure:

1. Present a letter of petition for membership to the Executive Committee of this State Association at least thirty (30) days prior to the annual state meeting.
2. If the State Executive Committee deems it necessary and makes the request, the Executive Committee of the petitioning conference / association must meet with the committee so that membership eligibility can be determined.
3. The State Executive Committee must make a written recommendation to the state body as to the disposition of the said petition.
4. The initial reception of a district conference / association into membership in this State Association shall be for one year under the watch care of this body.
5. After the initial one year watch care period and upon recommendation of the State Executive Committee for such, the respective conference / association is eligible for full membership by vote of the body.
6. In order to be a member of the South Carolina State Association of Original Free Will Baptists, Inc., a conference/association must consist of, and maintain, a membership of three or more churches, not to include missions.

SECTION THREE: Moral Standards

1) The MORAL MANDATE: The overwhelming majority of the Conferences in the State have stated that they believe that a Morally Fallen Pastor should not remain ordained; nor should he be re-ordained. They believe that he can be forgiven by God, restored to his relationship with God, and even be used in active service in the work of God; but not in an ordained position.

The Conferences in our state do not wish to condone such moral behavior by returning the fallen Pastor to an active leadership role. To weaken the wall of Holiness at this point would eventually lead to allowing other moral problems (such as Homosexuals) to be placed in our pulpits.

2) The LEGAL LIABILITY: In our present legal climate, the restoration of a sexually fallen minister to the pulpit would expose the church, the conference, and the State Association to the possibility of tremendous legal liabilities.

The State Association of Original Free Will Baptists, Inc. in their 2002 annual session moved to withdraw fellowship from any church or conference which licenses, ordains, or recognizes a sexually fallen pastor. Withdrawing fellowship from a conference or church means that they cannot be seated at the State Association meeting; thus, they will have no voting privileges nor can their ministers or delegates serve on boards of the State Association during the breach of fellowship. If they maintain this policy for four months after action by the State Association, they will no longer be considered a part of the South Carolina State Association of Original Free Will Baptists, Inc..

ARTICLE IV - REPRESENTATION TO THE STATE ASSOCIATION

Representation to this association shall consist of delegates duly appointed or elected by the local church and local conference / association, all ordained and licensed Free Will Baptist ministers, and all members of standing boards or committees, who are of a good report in their church and conference / association of which they are members.

SECTION TWO: Conference / association Representation.

Each conference / association can be represented to this association with five (5) delegates for the first one thousand (1000) members or less and two (2) delegates for each additional thousand members or fraction thereof.

SECTION THREE: Church Representation.

Local churches that are in good standing with the local conference / association to which it belongs can be represented with two delegates.

SECTION FOUR: Finances

1. Each local conference / association shall be represented to this association with a fee designated by the South Carolina State Association of Original Free Will Baptists, Inc. at each previous annual meeting. This fee must be paid before a conference / association or its local churches can represent to this association. The conferences and associations must be seated and must have submitted their fee and reports for the previous year before their members are allowed to be nominated or to continue to serve in any standing board or standing committee in the State Association. Those serving on standing boards or standing committees without meeting these requirements shall be replaced.

2. Local churches may be represented at no fee.

3. Monies received through representation fees shall be used to pay the representation fee of this State Association to the annual National Association, to meet the operational expenses of this association, and to advance its work.

ARTICLE V - STATE REPRESENTATION TO THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

SECTION ONE: Delegates

Number: The State Association shall send five (5) delegates to the National Association annual convention. This number is determined by the national body.

Method of Selection: Each conference or association shall have the privilege of nominating one delegate to represent the South Carolina State Association of Original Free Will Baptists, Inc. at the annual meeting of the National Association of FWB. If any conference fails to nominate a delegate or the delegate is unable to attend then the State Association Moderator will choose delegates from available laymen with consideration given to representation from all conferences. If all six conference delegates are able to attend the National Association, then the State Moderator will designate one of them as an alternate on a rotating basis.

SECTION TWO: Finances

The financial representation fee to the National Association will be the amount set by the National Association of Free Will Baptist. This fee must be paid in order for the state delegates to register and to allow the State Association to be seated for representation at the National Convention.

ARTICLE VI - LEADERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

All officers of this association, all members of its committees and boards, all of its secretaries, agents, missionaries, teachers, Christian workers or any other agent or agency who may be approved or supported by this association must be fundamental in their views of the Bible and its teachings, and in harmony with the doctrines and practices of the Treatise of the National Association of Free Will Baptists. They must give evidence of genuine Christian piety, possess fervent zeal in the service of Christ, and possess the ability to do the work for which they are considered.

ARTICLE VII - OFFICERS

The officers of this association shall be a Moderator, Assistant Moderator, Clerk, Assistant Clerk, Treasurer, and Assistant Treasurer.

SECTION ONE: Terms of Service

All officers are elected annually to serve one year. They may serve consecutive terms as long as they are elected by the body.

SECTION TWO: Duties

Moderator: It shall be the duty of the Moderator to preside over each session of this State Association, to govern it according to established rules of parliamentary procedure so as to preserve order, appoint the Committee on Committees unless the body requests they be elected, and serve as Chairman of the Executive Committee.

Assistant Moderator: It shall be the duty of the Assistant Moderator to serve in the full capacity of the Moderator in his absence or when requested by the Moderator to serve in his stead.

Clerk: It shall be the duty of the Clerk to record the transactions of the Association while in session, prepare the minutes for printing and distribution, record the business transacted at the Executive Committee meetings, prepare a report of those meetings to be presented to the State Association at the following annual session, and administer any required correspondence.

Assistant Clerk: It shall be the duty of the Assistant Clerk to assume the full responsibilities of the Clerk in his absence for whatever cause, and to give whatever assistance the Clerk may request of him.

Treasurer: It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to receive all monies that come into this Association. Through a checking account in a bank of his convenience, he shall dispense all appropriated funds and pay all bills and expenses incurred by an agent or agency of this Association. He will be a standing member of the Finance Committee, and shall prepare and present an annual financial report to the General Board for approval and presentation to the body.

Recommended procedure for paying bills incurred by someone other than the treasurer, and disbursing funds received for The Informer:

1. The person incurring a debt for the state must first check with the treasurer to confirm that funds are available before incurring the bill. This rule is in the State Constitution and By-Laws.

2. The person incurring the indebtedness must have the creditor mail to him the invoice and statement. In some cases, the invoice is secured at the time of purchase or the pickup of the merchandise. In either case, the person incurring the bill must sign the invoice for approval for payment, and mail it to the State Treasurer. The State Treasurer will not pay any bill that is not approved for payment.

3. Persons seeking reimbursements for travel and other approved expenses must submit to the treasurer a written bill detailing the expense items. The form to be submitted can be obtained from the treasurer.

4. The funds received through the state representation fees for the cost of printing The Informer shall be given in total sum to the SCFWB State Office. The Executive Secretary shall be responsible for paying the printing of the expenses as they become due.

Assistant Treasurer: It shall be the duty of the Assistant Treasurer to assume the responsibilities of the Treasurer in the event of any cause which would render it impossible for the Treasurer to discharge his duties. His signature shall be registered at the bank which holds the account of the State Association for authorization to issue checks. This authority is to be exercised only in the event he must assume the duties of the Treasurer or is requested to do so by him. He shall give assistance to the Treasurer as may be requested.

ARTICLE VIII - COMMITTEES

SECTION ONE: Standing Committees

1. Executive Committee

a. Composition. The Executive Committee shall consist of the Moderator, Assistant Moderator, Clerk, Treasurer, and two members elected at large from the State Association. One member-at-large is to be from the upper state conferences (Beaver Creek Conference or True Life Conference or the Palmetto Conference or the Great Commission Conference), and one member-at-large is to be from the lower state conferences (the Eastern Conference or the Central Conference or the South Carolina Conference).

b. Terms of Service: The Executive Committee members at large shall be elected annually to serve one year. They can succeed themselves as often as elected by the body.

c. Duties. The Executive Committee is responsible to: 1) Act for this State Association on matters that require its consideration between the annual sessions of this Association. 2) Supervise the arrangements for meetings of the State Association with authority to change if necessary the time and place of the meeting. 3) Fill vacancies in elected positions which are created by whatever cause between annual sessions of this State Association.

2. Credentials Committee

a. Composition. This committee shall consist of three members. They shall be elected to a three-year term each, with one position being open for election at each annual session of this State Association.

b. Duties. This committee shall be responsible to: 1) Properly register and recommend seating of all delegates, including ministers and members of standing boards. 2) Properly register all visitors. 3) Serve as the Finance Committee at each annual session of this State Association, with the State Treasurer serving as Chairman.

3. Finance Committee

a. Composition. This committee shall consist of the three current Credentials Committee members and the State Treasurer. The Treasurer shall serve as Chairman.

b. Duties. 1) This committee shall be responsible for receiving and accounting for all monies coming into the State Association treasury during each annual session. 2) Receive all recommendations and/or make its own recommendation for expenditures which are not already approved to the body for vote.

4. Programs and Publicity Committee

a. Composition. This committee shall consist of the current Executive Committee and the Executive Secretary.

b. Duties. This committee shall be responsible to: 1) Prepare the program for each annual state convention and secure a slate of speakers for devotions, seminars and worship services as well as arranging a musician, song leader, and a good program of special music and singing. 2) Arrange for a digest of national and state ministry reports. They are to be bound together in some manner for individual distribution at the annual session. 3) Supply news releases to all appropriate news media in the state concerning the convening of the annual convention and newsworthy events during and immediately after the session.

SECTION TWO: Temporary Committees

1. The Committee on Committees

a. Composition. This committee shall consist of five members, appointed by the Moderator at the beginning of each annual session of this State Association.

b. Duties. It shall be the responsibility of this committee to: 1) Prepare a list of names to serve on the established temporary committees for presentation to the body for their vote. 2) Committees to be considered are Resolutions Committee and Nominating Committee.

2. Resolutions Committee

a. Composition. This committee shall consist of five (5) members.

b. Duties. It shall be the responsibility of this committee to: 1) Receive all resolutions, 2) Carefully, examine, study, and discuss each resolution with those who presented the resolution, if needed, and

3) Properly prepare and present each resolution passed by the committee to the body for vote.

3. The Nominating Committee.

a. Composition. It shall be composed of one delegate from each conference or association.

b. Duties. It shall be the responsibility of this committee to: 1) Secure from the Clerk the list of elected positions that are to be filled at the current session. 2) Prayerfully prepare a slate of names for needed officers, directors, board members and standing committee members for presentation to the body for their consideration and election.

ARTICLE IX - BOARDS AND DIRECTORS

SECTION ONE: Boards with Directors

1. State Youth Conference Board

a. Director

(1) Acquisition. The State Youth Conference Director is selected by the State Youth Conference body at their annual state meeting for a three year term and may serve successive terms.

(2) Duties. It shall be the responsibility of this Director to give administration to the purpose, affairs and activities of the State Youth Conference Convention in accordance with the State Youth Conference constitution and bylaws, the national Youth Conference competition guidelines, and as the State Youth Conference Board may direct. It shall present a written financial and activities report to the annual State Association.

2. Youth Ministries Board

a. Director

(1) Acquisition. This director is to be recommended to the State Association by the Youth Ministries Board for election by the State body. He is to be elected for a five-year term and may serve successive terms.

(2) Duties. It shall be the responsibility of this director to give administration to the purpose, affairs, and activities of the S.C. State Youth Camps in accordance with their constitution and bylaws, and as the Youth Ministries Board may direct, and to give personal supervision to the activities while Youth Camps are in session. In the event this is impossible, an appropriate, capable, and competent person is to be appointed for the responsibility. He also serves as chairman of the Youth Ministries Board and presents a written financial and activity report to the annual State

Association.

b. Board.

(1) Composition. This board shall consist of five members who are recommended to the State Association by the Youth Ministries Director and Board, for election by the body. They shall be elected to a five-year term each, with one position being open for election at each annual session. A member cannot serve more than two consecutive full terms.

(2) Duties. It shall be the responsibility of this board to draw up a constitution and bylaws stating the purpose of the ministry and the rules that will govern its function for presentation to the State Association for its approval; also to make needed changes in said constitution and bylaws to keep it in conformity with the purpose and practices of the program. All changes must be approved by the State body.

(3) Financial Appropriations. Expenses incurred in relation to the function of this board and Youth Camp activities shall be paid from the board treasury in accordance with its constitution and bylaws. Mileage allowance cannot exceed the State Association's approved rate and is payable only to the person incurring the expense.

3. State Home Missions Board

a. Director

(1) Acquisition. This Director shall be elected by the State body for a five-year term and may serve successive terms.

(2) Duties. It shall be the responsibility of the Director to serve as Chairman of the Board, to give administration to the affairs and purposes of the State Home Mission Ministry as approved and directed by the board, to serve as treasurer of the board, and to present a written annual financial and activities report to the State Association.

b. Board

(1) Composition. This board shall consist of one member from each supporting conference / association. They shall serve on a rotating term with one position being open for election at each annual session. A member cannot serve more than two consecutive full terms.

(2) Duties. It shall be the responsibility of this board to draw up a constitution and bylaws stating the purpose of the ministry and the rules that will govern its functions for presentation to the State Association for its approval, and to make needed changes in said constitution and bylaws to keep it in conformity with the purpose and practices of the program. All changes must be approved by the State body.

(3) Financial Appropriations. Expenses incurred in relation to the promotion and function of the board shall be paid from the board treasury in accordance with its constitution and bylaws. Mileage allowance cannot exceed the State Association's approved rate and is payable only to the person incurring the expense.

4. Home For Children Board - The board shall consist of one member from each association with a total of no less than seven (7) members. In the event of less than seven associations within the State Association, the State Association has determined that a member at large shall be elected to keep the number of board members at seven. All board members must be members in good standing with their respective churches and associations. They shall be elected to serve a seven year term each, with one position being open for election at each annual session of the State Association. Board members may not serve more than two consecutive terms unless approved by the State Association.

SECTION TWO: Boards Without Directors

1. National Association General Board Member

a. Acquisition. The South Carolina Free Will Baptist Executive Secretary will serve as the General Board Member to the National Association. This is a three year term as set by the National Association of Free Will Baptists.

b. Duties. The National Association General Board Member is to serve on the General Board of the National Association to represent the South Carolina State Association and its interest as it relates to the national ministries of the Free Will Baptist Denomination.

2. General Board

a. Composition. This board shall consist of the present Executive Committee, all State Association Field Directors and/or Chairmans of the Boards, and a General Board Member from each conference, whose name must be submitted to the State Clerk before the state meeting each year.

b. Duties. The General Board will meet annually at an appointed time and place the day prior to the beginning of the State Association. The State Moderator will preside over the sessions. The board will be responsible for hearing reports to be given to the State body, which concern the State Association's ministry. The board will approve all reports, recommendations and budgets, and recommend them to the State body for its consideration. The board will have the opportunity to make inquiries and to offer suggestive helps to any standing committee function or board-supervised ministry. The board member will be the representative of his people to the State Association. He can convey the feelings and wishes of his people to the Executive Committee and the General Board about matters relating to the State Association and its ministries. When needed, they can make motions relative to their concerns, and if passed by a majority vote of the General Board and Executive Committee, the matter will be given to the State body for its consideration. In the event an issue arises, calling for action by the State Association while out of session, the Executive Committee can convene with the General Board for their consultation, input, and recommendation for the decision making of the Executive Committee.

c. Purpose. To offer a more adequate system of government for future growth. To provide maximum conference/association representation and input to the maintenance and growth of the State Association and its ministries. To provide a safe guard against minority power influence over any segment of the ministry of the State Association.

SECTION THREE: Directors Without Boards

1. Executive Secretary:

a. Acquisition. The Executive Committee is responsible to employ the Executive Secretary, oversee the SCFWB Executive Office, and terminate the Executive Secretary's services if it is deemed in the best interest of the office.

b. Duties. It shall be the responsibility of the Executive Secretary to promote and raise financial support for the SCFWB Executive Office and its expenses; edit, publish, and distribute the state paper, "The Informer"; report news of South Carolina Free Will Baptists to National Association of Free Will Baptists publications for possible printing; promote the annual State Association Convention via news media and mail-outs; promote participation in and financial giving to all state ministries; direct the promotion of Foreign Missions in South Carolina; offer service to churches in securing a pastor and service to pastors in securing a church; promote attendance of South Carolina Original Free Will Baptists to the National Association Convention; offer help to preachers not in the pastorate for supply service; render any appropriate promotional service for a local church, conference or association; serve on the program committee; meet with the Executive Committee when requested; serve as Treasurer of the SCFWB Executive Office; and present a written financial and activities report of the SCFWB Executive Office to the State Association's Annual Convention.

c. Financial Appropriations.

Expenses incurred in the operation of the SCFWB Executive Office shall be paid from money designated to the SCFWB Executive Office through the South Carolina Plan of Support or from other money received for the support of the SCFWB Executive Office.

Mileage allowance shall not exceed the State Association's approved rate.

The Executive Secretary's salary shall be set by the Executive Committee and shall be paid from funds designated for the SCFWB Executive Office and/or funds designated for the Executive Secretary's Salary. In addition to encouraging regular monthly gifts to the SCFWB Executive Office, the Executive Secretary shall promote a special offering each year in which SCFWB Churches are encouraged to give a gift specifically for the salary needs of the Executive Secretary.

If the salary needs of the Executive Secretary are not met for two consecutive months, then he is authorized to transfer up to 4% of all money given through the South Carolina Plan of Support to the Executive Secretary salary account until such time as salary needs are again being met by normal gifts and offerings.

d. Office Operations.

1) Building: Any major structural changes in the building and any rental decisions must be approved by the Executive Committee.

2) Equipment: Any purchase of equipment in excess of \$500 must be approved by the Executive Committee.

3) Hiring: The Executive Secretary must exercise great care in hiring employees. They must be examples in Christ likeness, church attendance, and involvement in Christian work and, if possible, members of a Free Will Baptist Church.

The breakdown in salaries by all personnel and the real cost to operate the building (such as any rental income, utilities and insurance, and the proportion paid by each occupant, including any renters) must be shown in the budget.

2. State Historian:

- a. Selection: The Historian shall be elected by the body to serve a five (5) year term and shall be eligible to succeed himself at the pleasure of the body.
- b. Duties: The historian shall research the history of the State Association, its churches, local conferences/ associations, and associated ministries. He shall gather, organize, maintain, preserve, and display material of historic value, and shall report the progress of these efforts to the State Association annually.
- c. Finances: The necessary expenses of the State Historian shall be paid by the Treasurer of the State Association under approval of the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE X-FINANCIAL APPROPRIATIONS

These appropriations are from the state treasury. Before any expenses are incurred, the responsible person should check with the State Treasurer to be sure funds are available.

1. Standing Committees

- a. Travel Allowance. Members of the Executive Committee shall be reimbursed for their travel expense at the IRS approved mileage rate. The travel allowance is to be paid only to the person incurring the expense.
- b. Lodging and Food. This applies for all standing committees as previously listed. Lodging and food expense should not be incurred unless absolutely necessary. When incurred, the actual cost will be reimbursed to the members.
- c. Other Expenses. Telephone calls, postage, etc., will be reimbursed to members at the actual cost.

2. Clerk. The clerk shall receive \$500.00 annually for services rendered.

3. Moderator. The moderator shall receive \$100.00 annually for services rendered. He shall be reimbursed for expenses to attend the annual State Leadership Convention held at Nashville, Tennessee.

4. Treasurer. The Treasurer shall receive \$250.00 annually for services rendered.

5. The SCFWB State Office. This office shall receive \$50.00 annually for office supplies. The Executive Secretary shall be reimbursed for his expenses to attend the annual State Leadership Conference held at Nashville, Tennessee, and the National Association Convention. This is to be paid only when funds are not available in the SCFWB State Office treasury.

ARTICLE XI - PRINTING OF THE ANNUAL STATE MINUTES AND THE CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

SECTION ONE: Format

The minutes of each session of the State Association shall be printed annually in booklet form.

SECTION TWO: Content

The annual state minutes shall include: 1) Necessary identification information. 2) Immediate past and forthcoming meeting place information. 3) Records of the entire proceedings of the annual session. 4) Directory of officers, directors, boards, standing committees, and all board and committee members with dates of service listed. 5) Directory of local conferences or associations, listing only the name of the conference/association; and address, and telephone number of its moderator and clerk and all ordained and licensed ministers. 6) Reports of state ministries and activities only. 7) Any content that may be directed for printing by a vote of the state body. 8) The current up-to-date copy of the South Carolina State Association of Original Free Will Baptists, Inc. Constitution and By-laws.

ARTICLE XII - PLACE OF STATE MEETING

SECTION ONE: LOCATION

The location (church) shall be recommended by the host conference and approved by the State body with the following guidelines:

1. Size of the church. The meeting place must be in a church large enough to host the meeting.
2. Accommodations. The meeting place must be near a town with adequate motel and restaurant facilities. If a conference/association does not have a church near a town with adequate facilities, then the conference/association shall work out the necessary arrangements with a sister conference/association for the use of a church to host the meeting. The conference/association requesting the arrangements shall be responsible to pay whatever expenses necessary to the host church.
3. Expenses. The attendants of the meeting shall be responsible for their own lodging and dining expenses during the State meeting, without the host church preparing the meals.

ARTICLE XIII - LOCATION AND TIME

This association shall convene on the last Thursday of February beginning with registration at 9:00 am and concluding the following day.

ARTICLE XIV - AMENDMENTS

Articles may be altered or amended at any regular session of this association by a vote of two-thirds of the members present, providing the change is recommended at least one day before the vote is taken.

BY LAWS OF THE ASSOCIATION

1. A portion of the Scripture shall be read and prayer offered at the beginning of each morning and afternoon session of the association and prayer shall be offered at the close of each session.
2. It shall be the duty of all members of the association to remain throughout the entire session unless they are excused by the Moderator.
3. Anyone desiring to speak shall rise and address the Moderator and shall wait until he is recognized before speaking further.
4. The Moderator shall not allow discussions that are un-Christian in spirit and that tend to create envy and strife among the brethren. Anyone resenting the ruling of the Moderator in such matters shall be liable to censure of the body.
5. No one shall be allowed to speak more than 15 minutes or more than twice on the same subject without permission of the body.
6. It shall be the duty of the Moderator to have an arranged outline of his annual message to be presented to the Clerk for printing in the minutes.
7. These bylaws may be altered at any regular session of the association by two-thirds of the members present, providing the change is recommended at least one day before the vote is taken.