

**GOVERNMENT AND CONSTITUTION
CUMBERLAND ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS**

ARTICLE 1. Each Quarterly holding membership in this District Association shall be entitled to five (5) delegates elected from the laity, with additional delegates from each member Church as follows: one delegate for the first 50 members or fraction thereof, and an additional delegate for each additional 50 members or fraction thereof. Furthermore, all ordained ministers and deacons holding membership in the Presbytery of this District Association shall be standing delegates.

ARTICLE 2. Each member Quarterly of this Association shall send a letter to each annual meeting giving information and statistics according to the form provided by the clerk of the association.

ARTICLE 3. This Association, when convened, shall be governed by Roberts Rules of Order.

ARTICLE 4. The Association shall elect a Moderator, Assistant Moderator, Clerk, Assistant Clerk, and Treasurer from its membership to serve two year terms and may succeed themselves.

ARTICLE 5. New churches shall petition the Quarterly meeting for membership. The Quarterly shall have power to receive new churches as members, and in turn shall inform the District Association of their membership.

ARTICLE 6. The Association shall post minutes of each year's annual meeting on the Association's website in a form which may be downloaded and printed. A paper copy will also be kept in the archives of Free Will Baptist Bible College, Nashville, TN.

ARTICLE 7. Annual dues for each member Quarterly shall consist of the current Quarterly dues plus the current Cumberland Association, Tennessee State Association, and National Association dues for each member church.

ARTICLE 8. For the purpose of ordaining ministers of the gospel and handling accusations of un-Christian conduct, there shall be a Presbytery, which shall convene at the close of the annual Association session. A meeting may be called at any time during the year by the Presbytery moderator and clerk or at the written request of five Presbytery members.

The Presbytery shall consist of ordained members present, and they shall elect a moderator, and clerk from among themselves who shall hold their offices until their successors are elected.

The membership of the Presbytery of the Cumberland Association shall consist of all ordained ministers and deacons holding cards of good standing in this Presbytery. Each quarterly meeting shall function as a subcommittee, and shall have the right to examine all applications for ordination or ratification of credentials, sent with recommendation from the churches composing the Quarterly Meeting, and if found competent, or ordain and set them apart for work by prayer and laying on of hands.

The examining committee of each Quarterly Meeting shall make an annual report to the yearly meeting of the Cumberland Association Presbytery.

Such report will also include the names of five elected members to serve as the examining committee of said Quarterly Meeting.

ARTICLE 9. It shall be the duty of each minister who shall organize a church to ordain deacons for the same. It is his duty, also, to ordain deacons where a vacancy occurs within his charge. It shall be the duty of each pastor to encourage the organization and support of the Sunday School in the church or churches where he is pastor as well as other organizations that may prove helpful to the work of the church.

ARTICLE 10. No persons shall be ordained to the ministry nor shall the credentials of any minister be ratified until he is qualified to meet the conditions stated in the third chapter of I Timothy. The term "the husband of one wife" means he shall not have more than one living wife (that is, he shall not be married to one wife at the present time and there be a wife still living from a previous marriage). This shall be tested by the Presbytery. The Presbytery shall have full power to propound such spiritual questions as they consider necessary to determine his qualifications. All candidates for ordination shall be required to answer these questions satisfactorily.

ARTICLE 11. Based on the teaching of Scripture, we believe that God creates each human being as either male or female. We also believe Scripture teaches that all human sexual relations are reserved exclusively within the bonds of marriage. We further believe the Bible defines marriage as a covenant-union between one man and one woman.

ARTICLE 12. This Association may exclude from its body any minister who teaches heresy, or any member Quarterly that countenances him in said teaching or that may be disloyal to the tenets of Faith as held by this Association and expressed in our Articles of Faith.

ARTICLE 13. All questions coming before this Association shall be determined by a majority vote, except exclusions of member Quarterlies which shall require two-thirds majority.

ARTICLE 14. All member churches present and voting shall be considered a quorum for the transaction of business for each session.

ARTICLE 15. Amendments to this Constitution may be made at any time by a majority vote of the members present.

ARTICLE 16. This Association may adjourn to meet with any church that is a regular member of it at any time it deems proper.

ARTICLE 17. This Association, having jurisdiction over all member Quarterlies within its bounds, shall discipline any member Quarterly which allows a member church to call a minister for a pastor who has been excluded by the Presbytery.

BOARDS

ARTICLE 1. All standing boards shall be composed of four (4) members, with the exception of: The Ministerial Benevolence Board which shall be composed of five (5) members; the Christian Education Board which shall be composed of seven (7) members; the Youth Camp Board which shall be composed of eleven (11) members; and the Executive Board which shall be composed as provided in Article 2 under BOARDS.

The personnel of each of the forgoing boards, exclusive of the Executive, Ministerial Benevolence and Youth Camp Boards shall be elected as follows: the first named for a period of one (1) year, the second named for a period of two (2) years, and the third named for a period of three (3) years. Succession of office thereafter shall be determined, as order requires. The Ministerial Benevolence Board members shall be elected each year for a five (5) year term. The eleven-member Youth Camp Board shall be elected on a three (3) member, four (4) member, four (4) member rotation basis with each member being elected for a three (3) year term.

The moderator of the Cumberland Association is to communicate with the chairmen of the standing boards during the year to assure their operation throughout the year.

The standing boards are to be represented at the Quarterly Meetings to promote their work. The standing boards are to meet at least twice a year to handle board matters and plan future activities.

ARTICLE 2. The personnel of the Executive Board shall be composed of the Moderator, Assistant Moderator, Clerk, Assistant Clerk, Treasurer, and the Moderators of each Quarterly meeting.

ARTICLE 3. The Executive Board shall have the power to act in behalf of and for the Cumberland Association from one regular session to another, and shall have power to elect such officers as may be necessary for its own government, and to carry out the plans and undertakings of the Association. It shall be the duty of the Executive Board to make written reports of all its work to each annual session of the Association.

ARTICLE 4. The duties of the various standing boards shall be to plan a program and supervise its operation in their respective fields. They shall organize themselves and regulate their work as may become necessary and as may be found in harmony with the principles and tenets of the Association.

The Duties of the International Mission Board

To promote international missions in each of the quarterly meetings by planning events to help undergird International Missions.

The Duties of the Ministerial Benevolence Board

1. Soliciting for funds from association churches in order to carry out its ministry;
2. Administering those funds in a responsible and economical manner;
3. Providing regular monthly support for those who qualify and have served the Lord well within the fellowship of the Cumberland Association churches;
4. Keeping our ministers and laymen informed of benefits available to them in the form of hospital and special purpose insurance and retirement benefits.

The Objectives of the Youth Camp Board

1. To provide a Christian camping experience for the youth of the churches that make up the Cumberland Association of Free Will Baptists;
2. To evangelize and seek to win each camper to the Lord Jesus Christ;
3. To stimulate Christian growth and maturity through Bible classes; Missionary and Christian service classes, Christian counseling, and through the preaching of God's Word;
4. To provide healthful physical activities and recreation for each camper;
5. To provide for various social activities for enjoyment and relaxation;
6. To uphold standards of modesty in behavior and in dress for boys and girls; and
7. To serve as trustees of the campground.

RULES AND DECORUM

This Association shall be opened by singing and prayer. Only one person may speak at a time. All addresses made by the members shall be made to the moderator, and the person thus speaking shall strictly confine himself to the subject in debate. No speaker shall cast any personal reflection toward any member of this body who has spoken previously.

No person shall be allowed to speak more than two times on any one subject without the permission of a majority of the Association.

The speaker shall not be interrupted during his speech by anyone except the moderator unless he violates the rules of order.

No member shall speak longer than ten minutes at any time without permission from the moderator.

Any member who shall willfully and knowingly violate any of these rules shall be reported by the moderator and shall be subject to the censure of the Association.

Adopted in Council this Saturday before the Lord's Day in October 1867 as a standing decorum, though subject to revision by majority of members voting for revision.

Constitution and Government revised: October 17, 1957, October 15, 1964, October 14, 1965, October 16, 1968, October 16, 1969, October 16, 1975, October 14, 1976, February 16, 1978, October 12, 1983, October 17, 1984, October 16, 1985, October 15, 1986, October 14, 1987, October 8, 1991, October 12, 1993, October 11, 1994, October 12, 1996, October 17, 2009, October 17, 2015