

FREEDOM FREEWILL BAPTIST CHURCH KIAHSVILLE WV

In February 1983, a meeting was called in the home of Rev. & Mrs. Earl Burgess to organize a new church. Present, was the ordaining council from the Brotherhood Conference, consisting of Rev. Noah Adkins, Rev. John Black, Rev. Carl Lilly, and Rev. Luther Morgan. Also present were ministers Rev. Earl Burgess, Rev. Jerry Casteel, and Rev. Howard Robertson and Deacon Clifton Miller. One year prior to this meeting on July 4, 1982, Rev. Jerry Casteel met with Rev. Earl Burgess at his home to discuss his ideas on organizing a new church in the Kiahsville area. Since this meeting took place on Independence Day, it would later be decided that the church be called the Freedom Freewill Baptist Church. In February 1983, along with the ordaining council, the church was founded with Rev. Earl Burgess elected as the first pastor, Brother Clifton Miller elected as the first Deacon, Brother Rufus Justice elected as the first clerk, and twelve Christians who were desiring membership. The building, which had been many different things in the past, and at the time a shooting gallery, was purchased for \$23,000.00 and in 1993, the final mortgage payment was made and was celebrated with a mortgage burning ceremony at the church. Over the past 30 years, many changes have been made to the property and membership.

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***NOTE:** This information was given to Brother Rickie Holstein, a member of the Historical Committee of the West Virginia State Association of Free Will Baptist on January 11, 2020, during a meeting of the Brotherhood Conference.*

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