

MINUTES

OF THE

FIRST ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

ALABAMA STATE CONVENTION

OF THE

Free Will Baptist

CONVENED WITH

MOUNT MORIAH CHURCH, PICKENS CO., ALA.,

SEPTEMBER 5th to 7th, 1907.

OFFICERS:

REV. WOODS SPRINGFIELD, Moderator.

REV. W. A. NELSON, Ass't Moderator.

WM. T. KENDRICK, Sec'y and Treasurer.

The next session will begin on Thursday before the second Sunday in Nov., 1908, at place to be selected by the Executive Committee.

AYDEN, N. C.

FREE WILL BAPTIST PRINT.

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PROCEEDINGS

—OF THE—

ALABAMA STATE CONVENTION.

The opening exercises of the meeting called to organize a State Convention of the Free Will Baptist of Alabama.

Introductory—Rev. J. B. Ray, of the Liberty Association, 11 a. m., Sept. 5th, 1907. The delegates not all having arrived the afternoon was occupied in a praise service.—Rev. J. D. Byars.

The evening train brought delegates from the Cahaba River and Jasper Associations, who arrived just as the meeting was breaking up for the afternoon. It was a touching meeting, especially as Rev. W. A. Nelson of the Jasper Association and Rev. Woods Springfield of the Mount Moriah Association, each of whom has been honored time after time as moderator of their respective association met and embraced each other.

Hymns of praise were sung, a prayer of thanksgiving and for divine blessings, offered by Rev. W. A. Nelson. Adjourned to meet at 9 o'clock, a. m.

Friday Morning.

Delegates having arrived representing the Mount Moriah, Cahaba River, Bear Creek, Jasper and Liberty Associations, it was decided by the body to proceed with the organization. This was regularly done by electing Rev. Woods Springfield temporary moderator and Wm. T. Kendrick, clerk, pro tem.

The moderator read a portion of Scripture and called the body to prayer. The purposes of the meeting were then beautifully and forcefully stated by the moderator.

The moderator was then authorized to appoint a committee on credentials. The chair appointed Rev. J. D. Byars, Rev. N. M. Davis and Rev. Porter Dubois on this committee.

The committee on credentials excused themselves from the body and after conferring together, reported as follows:

After due consideration we find that five associations are represented as follows:

The Mount Moriah Association—Rev. Woods Springfield moderator, Rev. J. D. Byars, Rev. W. B. Montgomery, Rev. J. E. Mathis.

The Cahaba River Association—Rev. N. M. Davis moderator, Wm. T. Kendrick.

The Bear Creek Association—Rev. Porter Dubois moderator.

The Jasper Association—Rev. W. A. Nelson ex-moderator.

The Liberty Association—Rev. J. B. Ray moderator. We recognize all of the delegates.

Respectfully submitted,

COMMITTEE.

The moderator appointed Bros. L. F. Pridmore and T. A. Springfield to take the vote of the body for permanent officers.

Rev. Woods Springfield of the Mt. Moriah Association was elected moderator and Rev. W. A. Nelson of the Jasper Association was elected assistant moderator. Wm. T. Kendrick of the Cahaba River Association was elected secretary. In a short and appropriate way the moderator and assistant moderator acknowledged the honor conferred upon them.

The moderator invited visiting brethren to seats.

It was then moved and properly sustained that the moderator appoint the committees.

The committees were appointed as follows:

Devotion—The deacons of Mt. Moriah church.

Publication, literature and education—Revs. N. M. Davis, J. D. Byars and J. B. Ray.

State Missions—Revs. Porter Dubois, W. B. Montgomery and J. E. Mathis.

Executive Committee—Revs. Wm. T. Kendrick, J. D. Byars and J. B. Ray.

On Organization—The representatives and delegates of the body resolved into a committee of the whole.

On motion the body adjourned for preaching, and to be called together by the moderator after the committees should confer together.

11 a. m., preaching by Rev Porter Dubois, text, St. John, 11 and 12 verses. The sermon was a strong and forceful one, full of feeling and power. Many were deeply impressed. The spirit was manifest, and the prayers and music were soul-stirring.

Dinner was served on the church grounds. There was enough and to spare, and that of the choicest.

Afternoon Session.

For some time before the hour set for the afternoon sermon, many had the pleasure of hearing a number of rare selections of music by talented and well trained voices led by that prince among leaders, the Rev. Woods Springfield.

Preaching at 2:30 p. m., by Rev. N. M. Davis, text, Rev. 3: 8. "Behold, I have set before thee an open door." The discourse was well chosen, leading up to what has been done for us by the gift of the Son.

Saturday Morning.

The body met at the call of the moderator.

The moderator led the devotion at service and prayer was led by the assistant moderator, Rev. W. A. Nelson.

The delegates being present the moderator announced the body ready for business.

The reading of the minutes was deferred.

The moderator called for the report on publication, literature and education which was read and received and committee discharged. (See Appendix.)

The report on state missions was called for, read and received and the committee discharged.

The report of the Executive Committee was heard and received. A full report will be expected at the next annual session of this convention.

The representatives and delegates then resolved themselves into a committee of the whole on organization. Rev. W. A. Nelson was called to the chair.

The duties, opportunities, obligations and responsibilities resting upon us as a denomination in the state was ably introduced by Rev. Woods Springfield and discussed by a number of the delegates.

It was moved by Rev. Woods Springfield and seconded by Rev. N. M. Davis and carried by unanimous vote, that this be, and is by authority vested in us, declared organized into the Free Will Baptist State Convention of Alabama.

On motion, this convention shall meet annually and that the time of meeting shall be on Thursday before the second Sunday in November of each year, unless the time shall be changed by a vote of the convention in regular session.

Adjourned for preaching.

11 a. m., Rev. Woods Springfield preached from Ex. 14: 15. There was a very large congregation. The sermon was an able one, beautiful in outline and adaptability.

Dinner was served on the grounds.

Afternoon Session.

The delegates again met in committee of the whole. Rev. W. A. Nelson in chair. It was ordered that the executive committee shall select the place for holding the next session, also prepare program for same.

On motion the chairman of the executive committee was elected state treasurer and all money for state work is hereby ordered sent to him or held subject to his call, and that the executive committee have as much work done as money will justify.

On motion a man in each association represented was selected to look after and get up money in his association and send it or have it sent to the state treasurer of the convention.

The following brethren were selected:

For the Mount Moriah Association—Bro. Joe Woods, Ethelville, Ala.

For the Cahaba River Association—Rev. N. M. Davis, Coalville, Ala.

For the Bear Creek Association—Bro. H. W. King, Nauvoo, Ala.

For the Jasper Association—Rev. John L. Conner, Twin, Ala.

For the Liberty Association—Bro. R. M. Chambers, Lottie, Ala.

On motion, Rev. Woods Springfield was elected state evangelist.

It was agreed to send Rev. Woods Springfield and Bro. R. M. Chambers to represent us in the Triennial Conference at Nashville Tenn., Oct. 2nd, 1907.

On motion the minutes of this convention be printed in pamphlet form and that the secretary is authorized to prepare the minute for the press and have 500 minutes printed and that he be paid five dollars for his work.

On motion we tender our sincere thanks to Almighty God for the opportunities of this convention, for their being brought together, and for his manifest presence in the Holy Spirit, and also to this church and community for the excellent entertainment, kindness and hospitality shown us during this session.

On motion the convention adjourned to meet on Thursday before the second Sunday in Nov. 1908, at the place selected before that time by the executive committee.

The parting hand was taken amid, beautiful songs of

praise, tears of sorrow and joy of friends, brethren and sisters, in the hope of meeting again especially in heaven.

REV. WOODS SPRINGFIELD, Mod.

REV. W. A. NELSON, Ass't Mod.

WM. T. KENDRICK, Sec.

APPENDIX.

Report of committees are as follows:

PUBLICATION, LITERATURE AND EDUCATION.—DEAR BRETHREN:—We your committee first recommend the adoption of the FREE WILL BAPTIST, published at Ayden, N. C., as our organ for the present, with the understanding that each association holding connection with this state convention or organization, hold to their present Articles of Faith.

We insist that our people subscribe and read the paper and contribute to the same.

As to Literature, We recommend that put out by the same publishing house, such as Sunday School supplies and other reading matter.

We recommend the Holy Bible as the foundation of all good literature, as such we recommend a more prayerful study of same by our people and especially our ministers

As to education, we feel the pressing demand upon us to educate our children, and especially those who give evidence of a call to the Gospel ministry—the day being fully come when the demands are so great upon the ministry, that it requires the best cultivated brain, therefore, we recommend, that our people put forth united efforts to educate the young ministers of our churches who prove themselves worthy.

We further recommend; that more caution be exercised, in licensing and ordaining men to preach and that greater efforts be given to prepare those for effective work, who are thus set apart.

Respectfully Submitted,

THE COMMITTEE.

ON EVANGELISTIC WORK.—We, your committee on evangelistic work beg to report as follows: We recommend that this body put out one evangelist.

Respectfully Submitted,

PORTER DUBOIS, Chm.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.—As the work of the executive committee is to extend during the year we have little to report at this time. We feel deeply the responsibility of the obligation placed upon us by this convention. We, therefore, request the most hearty support and co-operation of all those represented in this convention in raising means to support the evangelistic work of the state.

Respectfully Submitted,

COMMITTEE.

ROLL OF MINISTERS, 1906.

BEAR CREEK ASSOCIATION.

J. W. Alexander,	Lynn	Ala.
W. L. Delaney	Tharptown	"
P. H. Drain	Moulton	"
Porter Dubois	Phil Campbell	"
H. P. Foster	Concord	"
G. B. Haney	Mt. Hope	"
W. C. McCombs	Crews	"
E. B. Poole	Natural Bridge	"
W. P. Scott	Phil Campbell	"
R. P. Shadrix	Double Springs	"
F. R. Skelton	Littleton	"
A. Tidwell	Dora	"

Cahaba River Association.

D. L. Baker	Sterrett	Ala.
N. M. Davis	Coalville	"
J. H. Grimes	Coalville	"
Ezekiel Isbell	Vandiver	"
T. W. Jones	Sprotts	"
Wm. T. Kendrick	McCalla	"
J. J. Miner	Vandiver	"
W. J. Vest	Pratt City, R. F. D.	"

Jasper Association.

W. B. Benson	Carbon Hill	Ala.
S. W. Brooks	Hackelbourg	"
W. M. Busbee	Nauvoo	"
T. M. Canup	Brilliant	"
J. E. Cockran	Brilliant	"
J. L. Conner	Twin	"
I. C. Elliot	Brilliant	"
G. W. Flipps	Pierce's Mills	"

H. B. Fowler	Galloway	Ala.
W. H. Ingram	Brilliant	"
M. R. Martin	Brilliant	"
W. A. Nelson	Pocahuntas	"
R. A. Nix	Sunshine	"
S. B. Ramsey	Pleasant Site	"
E. C. Thomas	Galloway	"
J. J. Wesley	Twin	"

Liberty Association.

N. G. Baggett	Brewton	Ala.
W. H. Bailey	Jones Mills	"
A. J. Browning	Hammac	"
J. A. Burch	Appleton	"
N. T. Cardwell	Bluff Springs	Fla.
R. T. Coleman	Perdido Sta.	Ala.
C. C. Hanks	Brat	Fla.
J. W. Joyner	Nokomis	Ala.
G. W. Little	Canoe Sta.	"
W. J. Margan	Wallace	"
W. H. Nowling	Jay	Fla.
J. B. Ray	Canoe Sta.	Ala.
Warren Renfro	Flomaton	"
W. L. Rowland	Range	"
J. J. Thomley	Perdido Sta.	"
W. R. Thompson	Perdido Sta.	"
B. S. Wallace	College Hill	"

Mount Moriah Association.

J. D. Byars	Millport	Ala.
J. B. Davis	West Point	Miss.
W. J. Harben	Kuykendall	Ala.
J. S. Hinton	May	"
W. R. Latham	Gardo	"
J. E. Matthews	Millport	"
W. B. Montgomery	McConnells	"
J. M. Pinkerton	New Lexington	"
Woods Springfield	McShan	"

Bear Creek Association Statistical Table for 1906, Tenth Session.

CHURCHES.	PASTORS.	Baptized.	Rec by Letter	Dis. by Letter	Died.	Excluded.	Meeting Days	No. Members	Minute Fund
Abey.....	W. P. Scott.....	.....	4	3	1	.....	.....	.....	\$ 1.50
Blue Spring .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Bethel.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Blooming Youth.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Cave Springs	G. B. Haney.....	10	3	4	.....	.....	.....	.....	1.00
Christian Hill	A. Tidwell.....	.....	.....	2	.....	.....	.....	7	1.00
Hopewell	W. P. Scott.....	.....	.....	.....	2	1	3 57	.....	.70
Harmony .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Mt. Zion.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Marshall	W. P. Scott.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Mountain Home	H. B. Foster.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	35	1.15
New Prospect.....	E. B. Pool.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.40
Pleasant Hill.....	J. W. Alexander...	.....	1	.....	.....	2	2	.....	.50
Rock Springs.....	J. W. Alexander ...	.....	.....	8	.....	4	.....	.....	.65

NOTE.—We have omitted "Received by confession" and "Restored," as these columns were blank.

Jasper Association Statistical Table for 1906, Twentieth Annual Session.

CHURCHES COUNTY.		PASTORS.		Baptized.	Rec. by Letter	Dis. by Letter	Rec. on Con.	Restored.	Died.	Excluded.	Meeting Days	No. Members	Minute Fund
Mt. Olive, Marion.....	J. J. Wesley...	13	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	3	123	\$250
Beech Grove, Walker.....	J. W. Moore	13	3	...	...	...	...	1	3	...	4	81	100
Mt. Pleasant, Marion....	J. J. Wesley...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	71	145
Oak Grove, Walker	W. P. Scott...	...	2	...	...	...	...	3	1	1	4	18	60
N. Oak Grove, Walker....	F. R. Skelton	1	5	1	...	...	...	...	2	3	1	63	100
Friendship, Marion.....	...	...	3	...	...	...	7	...	...	...	1	59	100
Pleasant Grove, Marion...	J. W. Porter.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	...	50
Gum Springs, Marion....	J. L. Conner.	...	7	...	...	...	3	...	...	4	4	61	160
Union Chapel, Marion...	J. L. Conner.	3	...	9	...	...	...	1	...	1	3	14	60
Union Hill, Marion.....	G. C. Elliott.	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	9	4	10	115
Free Waters, Marion... ..	G. C. Elliott.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	33	85
Liberty, Marion.	J. L. Conner	8	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	96	120
Fairview, Franklin.....	T. M. Canup	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13	50
Pleasant Ridge, Miss....	T. M. Canup	7	3	...	...	...	2	...	1	1	1	88	200
N. Mt. Joy, Marion.....	J. J. Wesley...	6	16	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	50
Shady Grove, Franklin..	G. C. Elliot...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	2	...	2	36	105
Brilliant, Marion.....	G. C. Elliott..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	77	80
Pearce's Chapel, Marion	W. A. Nelson	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	25
Pocahontas, Walker.....	W. A. Nelson	2	3	...	...	...	...	4	...	...	1	60	200
Union Valley, Walker....	J. W. Moore..	6	4	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	2	36	75
Union Grove, Walker....	W. A. Nelson	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13	50
New Hope, Walker.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Mt. Hope, Franklin.....	T. M. Canup	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	35	50

Liberty Association Statistics, Fifteenth Annual Session for 1906.

CHURCHES.	PASTORS.	No. Members.	Paid Pastor.	Meeting Days
Shiloh.....	R. T. Coleman.....	39	\$22.80	1st
New Home.....	J. B. Ray.....	30	18.10	3rd
Harvest Home.....	N. T. Cardwell.....	57	27.70	3rd
Friendship.....	J. J. Thomley.....	61	25.00	1st
Mt. Willing.....	N. G. Baggett.....	78		2nd
Shady Grove.....	W. H. Nowling.....	24	12.75	3rd
Macedonia.....	J. J. Thomley.....	52	23.84	2nd
Union Grove.....	N. G. Baggett.....	30	16.47	.....
Antioch.....	R. T. Coleman.....	23	2.40	3rd
Dry Springs.....	J. W. Jones.....	39	2.40	4th
Pilgrims Rest.....	J. B. Ray.....	52	22.35	2nd
Pleasant Plains.....	J. J. Thomley.....	32	13.27	2nd
Good Hope.....	W. H. Nowling.....	12	8.60	1st
Juniper Grove.....	N. G. Baggett.....	35	32.25	3rd
Liberty.....	G. W. Little.....	18	14.15	3rd
Midway.....	D. N. Rowland.....	60		1st
Love Well.....	H. N. Smith.....	22	25.85	2nd
Mt. Sherron.....	J. W. Joiner.....	6		1st

Cahaba River Statistical Table Twenty-Ninth Annual Session, for 1906.

CHURCHES.	CO'S.	P. O. OF CHURCH	FORMER PASTOR	PRESENT PASTOR	PASTORS' P. O.	No. L. Report	By Baptism	Rec by Letter	Inc. by R. & R	Dec. by Letter	Excluded.	Deceased.	No. Member.
Pilgrim's Rest.....	Shelby.....	Aldrich.....	J. H. Grimes.....	J. H. Grimes.....	Coalville.....	62	1	3	4	1	1	1	63
Pleasant Valley.....	".....	Coalville.....	J. H. Grimes.....	J. H. Grimes.....	Coalville.....	75	1	3	3	4	1	1	73
Union Hill.....	".....	Vandiver.....	J. H. Grimes.....	J. H. Grimes.....	Coalville.....	61	2	3	3	2	1	1	66
Pleasant Hill.....	StClair.....	Brompton.....	W. F. Isbell.....	J. H. Grimes.....	Coalville.....	78	24		2			2	103
Mt. Pleasant.....	Perry.....	".....	".....	T. W. Jones.....	Waterfall.....	69	51						
Welcome.....	".....	".....	".....	".....	".....	38							
Bethel.....	".....	".....	".....	".....	".....	22	1						23
New Hope.....	Bibb.....	Bell Ellen.....	N. M. Davis.....	N. M. Davis.....	Coalville.....	18							18
Tabernacle.....	Jefferson.....	Pratt City.....	J. J. Miner.....	N. M. Davis.....	Coalville.....	52	2						48
Meadows Chapel.....	".....	Brookside.....	".....	".....	".....								
McCalla.....	".....	McCalla.....	N. M. Davis.....	N. M. Davis.....	".....								15

Mt. Moriah Association Statistical Table, 56th Annual Session for 1906.

CHURCHES AND COUNTIES.		PASTORS.		Baptized.	Rec. by Letter	Dis by Letter	Restored.	Deceased.	Excluded.	Days of M.	No. Members	Minute Fund
Mount Moriah, Pickens Co.....		Woods Springfield.....		5	...	...	...	1	..	2	150	\$2.50
Macedonia, Pickens Co.....		J. D. Byars		...	...	...	...	3	7	1	165	2.50
Shiloh, Pickens Co		Woods Springfield		...	2	...	...	...	...	...	68	2.50
Tabernacle, Tuscaloosa Co.....		J. E. Mathis.....		...	1	1	...	...	3	...	60	2.50
Antioch, Fayette Co.....		J. M. Pinkerton.....		...	...	...	...	1	..	...	58	2.00
Union, Pickens Co.....		W. B. Montgomery.....		...	...	1	...	2	1	1	...	2.00
Phillips Chapel, Tuscaloosa Co.		W. B. Montgomery.....		5	3	...	1	1	...	...	70	1.50
Hattie's Chapel, Pickens Co		Woods Springfield.....		...	2	...	...	...	...	...	30	2.00
Mt. Zion, Tuscaloosa Co		W. B. Montgomery.....		9	10	...	1	...	...	3	46	2.00