

MINUTES
OF THE
SEVENTH ANNUAL SESSION
OF THE
Alabama State Conference
OF THE
FREE WILL BAPTIST
CONVENED WITH
MOUNT HARMONY CHURCH
LAMAR COUNTY, ALABAMA
November 22, 23, 1917

OFFICERS:

Rev. Woods Springfield	Moderator
Rev. J. W. Moore	Assistant Moderator
S. G. Johnson	Secretary-Treasurer

The next session of this Conference will convene with Union Valley Church, Townley, Ala., 52 miles west of Birmingham, on the Frisco Railroad, begining on Thursday before the first Sunday in November, 1918.

AYDEN, N. C.
FREE WILL BAPTIST PRINTING CO.
1918

PROCEEDINGS

The Seventh Annual Session of the State Conference of the Free Will Baptist of the State of Alabama, convened with Mount Harmony Free Will Baptist church, Lamar County, Alabama, on Thursday night before the fourth Sunday in November, 1917, at 7 o'clock P. M.

After a short song and prayer service, Rev. J. W. Moore made a short talk, followed by Rev. E. M. Stamps, after which the conference proceeded to organize in the following manner:

The Moderator called for delegates from the different associations. They responded as follows:

1. Bear Creek.—Not represented.
2. Kahaba River Association.—Rev. E. M. Stamps, Rev. C. E. Lowery, Bro. J. R. Weaver, Sister Julia Weaver, Sister Lizzie Stamps.
3. Jasper Association.—Not represented.
4. Liberty Association.—Not represented.
5. Mount Moriah Association.—Rev. Woods Springfield, Rev. J. E. Matthis, Rev. J. D. Byers, Rev. T. L. Walker, Rev. W. E. Harbin, Rev. O. L. Achie, Bro. J. A. Hickman.
6. Vernon Association.—Rev. T. J. Adair, Bro. A. J. Sanders.
7. The South Eastern Association.—Not represented.
8. State Line Association.—Not represented.
9. The Morning Star Association.—Rev. J. W. Moore, Bro. Jesse W. Pike.

Then the conference proceeded to elect officers. Rev. Woods Springfield was elected moderator by acclamation.

By motion, Bro. S. G. Johnson was elected Secretary and treasurer by acclamation.

By motion, Bro. J. R. Kinnemer was elected Corresponding Secretary by acclamation.

The moderator appointed Bro. J. A. Hickman with the deacons of Mt. Harmony church the Devotional Committee.

On motion the Association adjourned till 8:30 A. M. Friday. Prayer by Rev. T. L. Walker.

FRIDAY MORNING.

Conference met according to adjournment. The house was called to order by the moderator who called on Rev. J. E. Matthis to conduct the devotional exercises. Scripture lesson the 93rd Psalm, and prayer by Rev. J. E. Matthis. The moderator then announced that the house was ready for any business that may come before it.

On motion, the following committees were appointed:

1. Documents and Business.—Rev. T. L. Walker, Rev. C. E. Lowery, Rev. T. J. Adair.

2. Publication, Literature and Education.—Rev. J. D. Byers, Rev. E. M. Stamps, Bro. J. R. Weaver.

3. Executive Committee.—Bros. J. R. Weaver, J. R. Kinnemer, Jesse W. Pike, J. S. Harles, A. J. Sanders, J. S. Stokes, Rev. C. B. Searcy.

4. Committee on State of the Denomination.—Revs. J. E. Matthis, J. W. Moore, W. E. Harbin, J. D. Byers.

5. Committee on Sabbath Schools.—Bros. Jesse W. Pike, J. A. Hickman, A. J. Sanders.

6. Committee on Temperance.—Revs. E. M. Stamps, T. J. Adair, Bro. S. P. Hollis.

7. Committee on Queries and Resolutions.—Revs. J. W. Moore, T. L. Walker, J. E. Matthis.

8. Committee on Finance.—Rev. O. M. Archie, Bro. J. A. Hickman.

At 11 o'clock, Rev. T. L. Walker occupied the stand and preached to an attentive congregation, using as his text, Psalms 15:1. He was followed by Rev. J. D. Byers. After which, the conference adjourned one hour for refreshments.

FRIDAY EVENING.

At 1:30, the congregation came together by singing. Prayer by the moderator. Called for report of Committee on Publication, Literature and Education.

Report of Committee on Literature, Publication and Education.

We, your committee submit the following report:

Section 1. We recommend that we use the literature published by our own denomination. We further recommend that we establish a State Press in this our State as early as possible.

Section 2. We find that the demand for an educated ministry is more needed now than ever before, and unless we do educate we will be a back number. Our young men starting out will not feel so embarrassed if they were educated. We encourage our young men to strive harder for an education than ever before; and that we as a body do all in our power to erect a college somewhere in the state to educate our young ministers just as soon as possible.

Section 3. Realizing the great danger in the study of the various publications in the world today, we further recommend that our people be very careful in selecting the literature to be read by our children. We further recommend that we urge all our churches in the various associations to subscribe for and read the THE FREE WILL BAPTIST, a paper published at Ayden, N. C., and also use the Free Will Baptist literature in our Sunday Schools.

Respectfully submitted,

J. D. BYERS, Chairman.

The report was adopted and the committee discharged.

Report of the Executive Committee.

We, your committee recommend that Rev. Woods Springfield be elected State Evangelist, with full power and authority to act as such. Should

he need any assistance we recommend that he call to his aid any minister of the conference whom he may deem worthy to assist him; and that he, Bro. Springfield, be clothed with the power of calling them to any field where he may think best, and this call also be subject to the order of the Executive Committee. We also further recommend these Evangelists make their report to the next annual session of this conference, stating therein the number of miles travelled, the number of sermons preached, the amount of expenses, etc., and total amount received for his services.

We further recommend that each association officiating with this conference pay one dollar for each church in said association for current expenses, and that the same be paid as soon as possible for current expenses, in order that the clerk of this conference may have the minutes printed. That the said money be forwarded to S. G. Johnson, Secretary and Treasurer, Postoffice address, Fernbank, Ala., R. F. D. No. 1.

We further recommend that the next session of this conference be held with Union Valley church, Townley, Ala., beginning on Thursday night before the first Sunday in November, 1918. (Townley is 52 miles west of Birmingham, on the Frisco railroad.)

Respectfully submitted,

J. R. WEAVER, Chairman.

The report was adopted and the committee discharged.

Report of the Committee on State of the Denomination.

We, your committee beg leave to submit the following report:

From the best information that we can gather from the delegates and from the denominational press, our denomination is progressing nicely. Several new church buildings are going up in spite of the hard times; but we feel that we have lost some by not organizing in the towns, and have also lost by not having organized the State Conference sooner. But we are proud to say that we have started on a new line, and every one who sees or hears of our plan is ready to join us for the doctrine of Free Salvation, free communion and immersion in water, is the doctrine of the Bible.

Therefore, let us unite our efforts as one man and success is ours. So let each one of us here go to our respective places of abode with a full determination to win the victory, and may God bless, guide and direct, should be the ardent prayers of all.

Respectfully submitted,

J. E. Matthis, Chairman.

The report was adopted and the committee discharged.

Report of Committee on Documents and Business.

We, your committee beg leave to report as follows:

1. We recommend the usual order of business.
2. We recommend that the Secretary superintend the printing of the minutes and that he have them printed at the Free Will Baptist Printing office in the town of Ayden, N. C. And that he be paid \$10.00 for his services. Further that he have 750 copies printed.

3. We recommend that the minutes be sent to the associational clerks.
Respectfully submitted,

T. L. WALKER, Chairman.

Report of Committee on Sabbath Schools.

We, your committee on Sabbath Schools, beg leave to submit the following report:

We have a great number of churches in the various associations who have good Sunday schools, but we find that there are a number of churches that have no Sunday schools. We recommend that the ministers of the Alabama State Conference do all in their power to encourage a deeper interest in the Sunday school work, and to assist if possible in organizing a Sunday school in all our churches. We find that churches that have a Sunday school are alive and prospering, and that the children are being trained and converted to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and brought into the fold.

We also recommend that we use the Free Will Baptist literature printed at Ayden, N. C., in our Sunday schools.

Respectfully submitted,

JESSE W. PIKE, Chairman.

On motion, the report was adopted and the committee discharged.

Report of the Temperance Committee.

We, your committee beg leave to report as follows:

Temperance should be an individual subject and should appeal to all true followers of Christ. It is one of the fundamental principles in forming and shaping a true christian character. It is the key to a successful life in church and state. It is right in the sight of God to be temperate in all things. There are many ways by which intemperance is practiced, and we as professed Christians, should carefully study the Scriptures in reference to temperance, that we may rightly understand the meaning of the word temperance.

As it was said of John, the great forerunner of Christ, that he should drink neither wine nor strong drink, establishing the fact, that would we wield a strong influence for God, we must abstain from all intoxicating beverages. Strong drink is a Christian's educational question. And as we as professed Christians should demonstrate to the world the worth and merit of the church of the living God, lifting humanity upon a higher plane of living, we condemn the legalizing law of the sale of intoxicating liquors.

Respectfully submitted,

E. M. STAMPS, Chairman.

On motion, the report was received and the committee discharged.

Report of the Finance Committee.

We, your committee on Finance beg leave to report as follows:

From the Mount Moriah Association\$11.85
From the Vernon Association 6.00

From the Morning Star Association 2.90

Total\$20.75

Respectfully submitted,

O. M. ARCHIE, Chairman.

On motion, the conference excused Revs. J. E. Matthis and T. L. Walker and Bro. J. A. Hickman to go home.

On motion, it was agreed that the pastors of each church appoint the deacons of the church to raise money and send to the chairman of the Executive Committee to pay the expense of Rev. Woods Springfield as State Evangelist.

On motion, the minutes be left in the hands of the Secretary.

Report of the Committee on Resolutions.

We, your Committee on Resolutions, beg leave to submit the following:

Realizing the disturbed condition now existing among the nations of the world,

Be it Resolved, 1. That this Conference covenant to pray for our rulers that peace may reign on the earth and that the Almighty God may be with our boys who have been called into the service; and if they never return home to us that they meet us in heaven.

2. That we tender our sincere and heart-felt thanks to Mount Harmony church and community, and especially to the sisters for their kindness shown us during our stay among them.

Respectfully submitted,

J. W. MOORE, Chairman.

On motion, the report be received and the committee discharged.

On motion, the Conference adjourned to meet with Union Valley church, at Townley, Ala., on Thursday night before the first Sunday in November, 1918.

REV. WOODS SPRINGFIELD, Moderator,
Ethelville, Ala.

S. G. JOHNSON, Secretary-Treasurer,
Fernbank, Ala., R. F. D. No. 1.

NAMES OF MINISTERS OF THE MOUNT MORIAH ASSOCIATION.

Woods Springfield, J. D. Byers, J. E. Matthis, W. J. Harbin, M. Montgomery, T. V. Wheat, T. L. Walker, W. E. Harbin, O. M. Archie, W. R. Robinson, I. T. Neighbors, J. M. Spencer, Walter Martin,
LICENTIATES.—C. O. Burnett, C. E. Best.

MINISTERS OF THE VERNON ASSOCIATION.

D. G. W. Hollis, G. B. Taylor, T. J. Adair, M. D. Clearman.
LICENTIATE.—Claud Springfield.

MINISTERS OF THE SOUTH EASTERN ASSOCIATION.

R. M. Kincy, C. B. Searcy, W. T. Miller, J. H. Guilford, J. W. Parker,

W. M. Shirley, James Shirley, A. Z. Ard, Thos. Gilley, W. T. James, W. M. Jordan, S. M. Martin.

MINISTERS OF THE MORNING STAR FREE WILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION AND POSTOFFICES.

Rev. J. W. Moore, Townley, Ala.; Rev. B. M. Atkins, Townley, Ala.; Rev. L. G. Leggett, Townley, Ala.; Rev. R. A. Williams, Townley, Ala.; Rev. W. I. Wade, Oakman, Ala.; Rev. W. R. Brown, Oakman, Ala.; Rev. J. B. F. Tingle, Carbon Hill, Ala.; Rev. W. M. Hawk, Carbon Hill, Ala.; Rev. W. L. Wyers, Carbon Hill, Ala.; Rev. J. N. Barnett, Benoit, Ala.; C. O. Barnett, Cardova, Ala.; Rev. A. M. Potts, Kennedy, Ala.; Rev. N. H. Parish, Route 2, Carbon Hill, Ala.; Rev. John Smith, Route 1, Bankston, Ala.; Rev. Thos. Arnold, Haleyville, Ala.; Rev. T. Harris, Phil Campbell, Ala.; Rev. G. W. Skelton, Quinton, Ala.; Rev. J. W. Barner, Corona, Ala.; Rev. A. J. Roberts, Pocahontas, Ala.

BY-LAWS.

Article 1. Each session of the Alabama State Conference shall be called to order by the Moderator when present, or in his absence the Assistant Moderator or Clerk.

Article 2. As each sitting or adjourned meeting shall be opened and closed by prayer.

Article 3. Ten members shall constitute a quorum, provided not less than three Associations are represented, but a smaller number may adjourn from time to time.

Article 4. After the opening of each session the Executive Committee will examine the credentials of the ministers present, and after report of this committee and the enrollment of the delegates and ministers present, the Conference shall proceed to the election of Moderator and Clerk.

Article 5. At each session such standing committees may be appointed as the Conference may deem proper.

Article 6. It shall be the duty of the clerk to furnish each session of the Conference with a book of records containing the proceedings of the previous session.

Article 7. Any one wishing to retire while the Conference is in session shall obtain leave of the presiding officer, who shall make same known to the Conference, and if no objection, leave shall be granted.

Article 8. No person shall be allowed to speak more than 10 minutes at any one time, or more than twice on any one subject, without consent of the body.

Article 9. It shall be the duty of the Conference to elect or appoint a committee of three or more to be designated as a "General Home Mission Board" whose duty it shall be to inaugurate and execute a general system of domestic missions. They shall appoint such sub-committees and employ such agents and missionaries as they may deem proper. They shall hold office until their successors are duly elected or appointed, in case of death

vacancies may be filled by appointment of the Moderator, and shall make a detailed report at each regular session of this body of their doings for the past year.

Article 10. All questions, queries and resolutions to be debated upon shall be presented in writing, and shall be read in open Conference, and a motion and second of a member of the body before debate.

CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE CONFERENCE.

Article 1. The name of this Conference shall be The Alabama State Conference.

Article 2. The object of this Conference is to bring us as a denomination into a more intimate and fraternal relationship, and to effect thorough co-operation of the various bodies of the Liberal or Free Will Baptist in this State and elsewhere.

Article 3. This State Conference shall be composed of the representatives of Baptist bodies that harmonize generally with the doctrine and usages of the Associations now constituting this body, who may be admitted from time to time on their own application.

Article 4. The officers of this Conference shall be a Moderator, Assistant Moderator and a Clerk and Treasurer.

Article 5. The Moderator shall be elected at each regular session in such manner as the body may choose, and he shall perform duties usually performed by presiding officers, serving until his successor is elected. A state Clerk shall be elected from time to time and shall continue in office until his successor is elected.

Article 6. In the letters from the different bodies shall be expressed the number of churches composing each Association. Those in full fellowship, etc., those received and those dismissed since the last session of this Conference and the time and place of holding their respective annual associations, together with their statistical reports of their numerical strength.

Article 7. Each Association shall be entitled to three delegates elected by their body while in their annual session, all ordained ministers are entitled to membership in this body without being elected with certificate of good standing from the Association to which they belong.

Article 8. Any article in this constitution may be altered or amended by a majority of votes at any regular meeting and approved by that body, and published in the minutes with notice that it will be voted at next meeting. Article 1 and 10 shall never be changed.

Article 9. Each session of the Conference shall determine the time and place of holding the next session.

Article 10. The Executive Committee of this Conference shall be members of the Free Will Baptist church in good standing, and shall have the power to contract with and sustain our Evangelists, who are elected by the body in regular session, they will take an oversight of the Association and ministers, who are members of this State Conference, will be known as a committee on credentials.