

MINUTES
OF THE
ALABAMA STATE CONFERENCE
OF
FREE WILL BAPTIST
HELD WITH
RED BAY CHURCH

September 3, 1930.

OFFICERS:

Rev. O. C. Weaver, Alabama City, Ala., Moderator.
Rev. J. D. Byars, Millport, Ala., Assistant Moderator.
Rev. M. L. Hollis, Red Bay, Ala., Clerk.
J. T. Baxter, Caledonia, Miss., Treasurer

The next session of this Conference will be held with Pleasant Site Church, 17 miles North of Sulligent, Ala., on Highway leading from Amory, Miss., to Hamilton, Ala., on Wednesday September 9th, 1931.

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PROCEEDINGS

The Alabama State Conference of Free Will Baptist met with Red Bay Church, Red Bay, Ala., Sept. 3, 1930, at 10 o'clock A. M.

The moderator being absent, the Conference was called to order by the assistant moderator, Rev. J. D. Byars, of Mil port, Ala. Thirty minutes were spent in song and prayer service, conducted by Rev. S. T. Shutes, of Vernon, Ala., after which Rev. I. K. Boyette, of Hamilton, Ala., delivered an encouraging message on Faith. Adjournment was taken for lunch and to reassemble at 1:30 P. M.

Wednesday Afternoon

Met back in the house thirty minutes early for song service, during which time the following singers directed music: Rev. S. T. Shutes, J. M. Graham, Prof. J. T. Green and Jack Bolden. At 1:30 o'clock the moderator read a Scripture lesson and offered prayer, after which Rev. M. L. Hollis, pastor of the Red Bay Church, delivered the welcome address to a large crowd of delegates and visitors. Response given by Rev. O. C. Weaver.

Called for letters from the various Associations and Churches. The following Associations were represented by letter and delegates: Mt. Moriah—Rev. J. D. Byars and wife, Pink Crawford, P. H. Killer, M. B. Fields, J. H. Cole and Rev. O. C. Weaver. Muscle Shoals-State Line—Rev. W. Baggett and P. J. Box. State Line of Alabama and Miss.—R. H. Perkins, E. W. Brown, M. J. Brown, Revs. Olie Knight and I. K. Boyette. Vernon—Rev. S. T. Shutes, C. S. Collins, Shanon Fields and J. T. Baxter. Jasper—Rev. M. L. Hollis, G. W. Berlson, Lee Goodwin and J. M. Dupree. Flint Riv.—Revs. J. A. Morgan, J. M. Bell, J. T. Quick, J. M. Angle and J. H. Holmes. Alabama City Church—Rev. J. S. Dillard and Walter Mitchell.

After the letters were read and the delegates seated, the Conference proceeded to elect officers, which were as follows: Rev. O. C. Weaver, Moderator; Rev. J. D. Byars, Assistant Moderator; Rev. M. L. Hollis, Clerk; and J. T. Baxter, Treasurer.

The newly elected moderator took his seat. First invited visitors to seats with us. The following were seated: Rev. K. V. Shutes of Kynesville, Fla. From Friendship Church—J. A. Robertson and wife, J. M. Graham and wife, J. T. Green. Union Chapel Church—James E. Maddox. Union Valley Church—A. J. Guthrie, J. W. Pike, Lena Guthrie and May Field Guthrie. Alabama City Church—Jim Coxwell and DeWitt White. Brilliant Church—Mrs. G. W. Berlson, Bros. Nelson and Berlson. Cardova Church—J. R. Maddox.

The program was adopted as outlined by the program committee.

The following Churches sent contributions to the Conference: Unity Grove—\$2.10; Sulphur Springs—\$3.00; Macedonia—\$3.00; Cardova—\$2.25; New Pleasant Ridge—\$5.00; New Center Point—\$1.50; Friendship—\$3.00; Mt. Pleasant—\$3.00; Union Chapel—\$2.00; Red Bay—\$3.00; Brilliant—\$3.00; East Florence—\$1.00; Guin Chapel—\$1.00.

The newly organized church at Alabama City was received into the Conference and their delegate seated.

The following committees were appointed by the moderator:

On Document and Order of Business—Revs. J. D. Byars, S. T. Shutes, I. K. Boyette, with Moderator and Clerk.

On Education, Publication and Literature—Revs. M. L. Hollis, K. V. Shutes, J. S. Dillard, P. A. Crawford, J. M. Bell and T. W. Brown.

On Mission—Rev. S. T. Shutes, C. S. Collins, Shanon Fields, J. T. Baxter, P. J. Box, Walter Mitchell, J. T. Quick, Lee Goodwin and R. C. Perkins.

On State of Denomination—Rev. Olie Knight, J. H. Cole, M. J. Brown.

On Sunday School—P. H. Keller, Sister Byars and G. W. Berison.

On Temperance—Revs. J. M. Engle, J. S. Dillard and J. H. Cole.

On Resolutions—Walter Mitchell, Rev. J. A. Morgan and Mit Fields.

On Finance—J. T. Baxter, M. J. Brown and P. A. Crawford.

At this time an address was given by Rev. M. L. Hollis, on "The Progress of Our Denomination." Rev. Hollis endeavored to show the progress that our church had made in the last ten years along the line of Education, Publications, Finance and increase of membership. He said, that judging from the progress that our church had made during the past ten years we had every right to be very optimistic over the future outlook for our denomination. It was requested by Rev. S. T. Shutes, that this talk be followed by singing "We'll Reap What We Sow".

The delegates and visitors were assigned to the homes where they were to be entertained during the Conference. After which the Conference adjourned to meet back at 9:00 o'clock Thursday morning. The moderator announced that Rev. K. V. Shutes, of Kynessville, Fla., would preach at 7:30 P. M.

A 7:30 P. M. a large crowd gathered at the church for the evening worship. Rev. J. D. Byars, of Millport, Ala., conducted the devotional services, after which Rev. K. V. Shutes, preached an inspirational sermon to a large crowd of attentive listeners.

Thursday Morning

Conference assembled according to adjournment. Devotional exercises were conducted by the moderator, Rev. O. C. Weaver. Prayer by Rev. W. Baggett, of Florence, Ala. The clerk called the roll of delegates and found a quorum present. The moderator announced the Conference ready for the transaction of business. A letter was read from the East Florence Church and their delegate seated.

Report on Education, Publication and Literature, called for read and adopted. (See report).

Report on Missions called for read and adopted, after a number of discussions. (See report).

Report on Sunday Schools called for, read and adopted. (See report).

Report on Temperance called for, read and adopted.

Report on Finance read and adopted.

Report on Documents and Order of Business read and adopted.

The following were appointed as Program Committee to arrange program

for the next session of the Conference: Rev. S. T. Shutes, J. H. Cole and J. T. Baxter.

The Rev. K. V. Shutes, at this time, delivered a fine address on Ladies' Aid work. Rev. Shutes, in his talk, paid a nice tribute to the ladies of our church who are striving to carry the cause of Christ forward.

An oral report was given by Rev. S. T. Shutes, on Missions.

The Conference was recessed for ten minutes after which time the congregation came back into the house for preaching services. A good song service was enjoyed. The Rev. J. D. Byars, one of our old ministers who has been a real standby to every progressive move of our church, filled the stand and brought us a most wonderful message, using as his Text Mark 16:15, 16, and Matt. 28:18-20. Conference adjourned until 1:30 for dinner.

Thursday Afternoon

At 1:30 the body was called together by singing. The moderator read the 103 Psalm and offered prayer. The following business was transacted: Brother Shanon Fields was appointed to fill the vacancy of Rev. J. B. Bloss, on Finance Committee. Brother Oliver Mink, to fill the vacancy of Rev. Geo. Kelley. Brother J. T. Green, to fill the vacancy of O. L. Stokes.

Board of Auditors appointed as follows: Rev. Olie Knight and C. S. Collins.

Home Mission Board as follows: M. J. Brown to fill the vacancy of Clyde Palmer; J. T. Baxter, to fill the vacancy of Rev. T. J. Adair.

Miss Emma Blanton, of Red Bay, Ala., was appointed Field Secretary.

Rev. K. V. Shutes, made a talk on the new Bible School of Alabama, Georgia and Florida. Rev. Shutes, urged the members of the State Conference to get behind this school with their prayers, finance and encouragement. A public collection was taken for said school amounting to \$7.36.

The Clerk was appointed to prepare letter forms for the churches to send to State Conference.

Rev. S. T. Shutes, was appointed as delegate to represent the Alabama State Conference in the General Conference of the Original Free Will Baptist of the United States, which is to be held with the Horse Branch Church, Turbeville, South Carolina, on Wednesday following the second Sunday in June, 1931. A fee of \$10.00 was raised to be sent to said Conference.

Report on Resolutions read and adopted.

Having failed to receive report from the Field Secretary it is impossible to give a statistical report.

Move to adjourn to meet with Pleasant Site Church, 17 miles North of Sulligent, Ala., on Highway leading from Amory, Miss., to Hamilton, Ala., on Wednesday, September 9th, 1931, and that the moderator preach the introductory sermon, and the assistant moderator be his alternate.

REV. O. C. WEAVER, Moderator, Alabama City, Ala.

REV. J. D. BYARS, Asst. Moderator, Millport, Ala.

REV. M. L. HOLLIS, Clerk, Red Bay, Ala.

J. T. BAXTER, Treasurer, Caledonia, Miss.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

On Education, Publication and Literature

We, your committee on Education, Publication and Literature, wish to submit the following report: We are very optimistic over the outlook for the future in religious education because the opportunities are greater than ever before and we must receive religious as well as literary training in order to be of the most service to mankind and every opportunity should be grasped to secure an education in both religious and literary lines. The preacher should be an educator in the Church; the father and mother, educators in the home. The Sunday school, the Church services, and the home should be the educational centers and no opportunity should be overlooked not only to keep these alive but growing, and everyone should try and get away from the habit of theorizing and put into practice the helpful ideas gained through spiritual contact.

Every available source of help should be rendered to the educational institutions that are promoting religious training for ministers of the gospel because through these we must look for spiritual food upon which the soul must grow.

We further recommend that our people subscribe to and read our church organ, THE FREE WILL BAPTIST, published at Ayden, N. C., and that we use the Free Will Baptist Literature in our Sunday schools and leagues.

Respectfully submitted,

M. L. HOLLIS, Chairman.

On Finance

We your committee on finance, report as follows: We have collected at this session \$31.85 for the minute funds.

J. T. BAXTER, Chairman.

On Document and Order of Business

We, your committee on Document and Order of Business submit the following report: First, we ask that a program committee be appointed for the 1931 session.

We recommend that each church and association send not less than \$3.00 as Conference funds.

We recommend that this Conference meet with Pleasant Site church, 17 miles North of Sulligent, Ala., on Highway leading from Amory, Miss., to Hamilton, Ala., on Wednesday, September 9th, 1931.

We recommend that the clerk superintend the printing of the minutes having this done at the FREE WILL BAPTIST PRESS, Ayden, N. C., and that he have \$10.00 for his services.

We recommend that the introductory be preached by the moderator, his alternate, the assistant moderator.

Respectfully submitted,

REV. S. T. SHUTES, Chairman.

Zion Bible School

On Resolutions

Be it resolved, that this Conference endorse the new Free Will Baptist Bible School, which is to begin the 16th of this September and continue nine months of each year as long as our people will support it. This school is located at Blakely, Ga. It is to be a Fundamental Bible school. Also that an offering be taken at this session of the Conference for said school and the Conference be given credit for same. For further information write Rev. T. B. Mellette, Hilton, Ga.

Resolved: That this body extend their thanks to Red Bay Church, pastor and town, for the kindness shown us while here.

Resolved: That every church and pastor try to get other churches and associations to unite with this Conference, so that we may be more unified.

J. A. MORGAN, Chairman.

On Temperance

We, your committee on Temperance, beg leave to submit the following report: We advise that our people abstain from all intoxicating drinks. We advise that we, as a body of believers in Christ, use our influence against the sale and use of strong drinks.

We further recommend that this State Conference of Free Will Baptist of Alabama go on record as opposing any person for any office who is not a Prohibitionist in practice and belief.

REV. J. M. ENGLE, Chairman.

On Sunday Schools

We, your committee on Sunday Schools, submit the following report: By close examination we find that in the representation there are only thirty-three Sunday schools represented. We heartily endorse the steps taken toward a State Sunday School Convention, and urge that we take more interest in that phase of the work.

REV. W. C. KNIGHT, Chairman.

On Missions

We, your committee on Missions, submit the following report: We find the drive fostered by the board last spring still in store if we are correctly informed. The delegates and ministers tell me that they aim to take the matter up during this fall.

We urge this, and beg in the name of God that our preachers place the matter before their churches, and contend until the matter is put over.

We ask that each church formulate their own plan in order to have a donation for the Mission Board at the next session of the Conference.

Respectfully submitted,

REV. S. T. SHUTES, Chairman.

LETTER TO STATE CONFERENCE

To the Alabama State Conference of Free Will Baptist, to be held at

on Wednesday, September 9th, 1931.—GREETINGS:

We send as delegates to represent the -----

(Name of Association or Church)

(Name of delegates and address)

Praying that much and lasting good may be accomplished through the
State Conference.

The statistics of our body are as follows:

Number of Churches -----, Number of Ministers -----

No. of members received this year ----- Total No. of members -----

No. of Sunday school organizations ----- No. of F. W. B. Leagues -----

Number of Ladies' Aid ----- Value of Church property \$-----

Amount paid to Missions \$----- We send as Conference fee \$-----

Name and address to whom minutes are to be sent -----

----- Moderator.

Address -----

----- Clerk.

Address -----