

MINUTES
OF THE
ALABAMA STATE ASSOCIATION
OF THE
ORIGINAL FREE WILL BAPTIST
HELD WITH
MT. HARMONY CHURCH

FIVE MILES SOUTH OF VERNON, LAMAR COUNTY
ALABAMA, DECEMBER 8TH AND 9TH, 1939

OFFICERS

M. E. CARPENTER.....	Moderator
R. P. RITCH.....	Vice-Moderator
D. G. JORDAN.....	Clerk
W. H. RYLAND.....	Statistitian

THURSDAY NIGHT

Minutes of the Alabama State Association of the Original Free Will Baptist held with Mt. Harmony Church, five miles south of Vernon, Lamar County, Alabama, December 8th and 9th, 1939.

7:30—Song service directed by Brother L. E. Parker. Devotional by Rev. Joe S. Frederick, reading the 1st Psalm.

7:45—Sermon by Rev. J. S. Lavender, reading the 5th chapter of Galation. Text, Titus 2:11-12.

FRIDAY MORNING

9:00—Song directed by Brother J. T. Johnson, prayer by Rev. R. P. Ritch of Pell City, Alabama.

There being a quorum of delegates present, the Association was called to order by the Moderator, Rev. M. E. Carpenter.

Moderator called for a move and second that the Association go back under the name of the Alabama State Association. The move was properly made and carried.

Called for letters from the various associations. Some reported by letters, others in person. Reports received and delegates seated.

A move carried that Moderator be empowered to appoint all committees. Appointments made as follows:

Finance Committee: Brothers J. M. Stokes, Odus Robertson, O. L. Hall.

General Business Committee: Brothers J. S. Frederick, I. B. Robertson, D. C. Hall, and E. W. Graves.

Querries and Resolutions Committee: Brothers J. L. Lavender, A. J. Wilson, S. G. Johnson.

Nominating Committee: Brothers Curtis Taylor, J. M. Stokes, W. W. Barnes and L. E. Parker.

It being suggested, D. G. Jordan made a short talk on 'The Good Of Our Association. Rev. J. S. Frederick made a report concerning a fund collected and given to Brother Cobb for the purpose of building a church at Sty, Alabama.

Moved and carried to recess for twenty minutes.

10:30—Called together by Moderator, M. E. Carpenter. Song service by Brother J. T. Johnson, prayer by Sister, J. H. Cole.

11:00—Rev. R. P. Ritch brought a soul-stirring message that was enjoyed much by all present. Scripture reading from the book of Isiah and St. Matthew. Subject: The Bed Is Too Short And The Cover Too Narrow. After this good Gospel message, we were dismissed for lunch until 1:15 o'clock.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON

The Association was called together by song service by Brother Curtis Taylor.

The general business committee made a partial report which was received and re-read by sections and adopted and the committee retained, after which Prof. J. T. Johnson sang a song and the body recessed for ten minutes.

After recess, Brother Odus Robertson directed a song after which the finance committee made a partial report. After some discussions on financial problems, the body adjourned until 6:30 Friday night.

FRIDAY NIGHT

6:30—Devotional by Rev. J. L. Lavender, reading the 116th Psalm.

7:00—The audience enjoyed another good message from Rev. R. P. Ritch. Text, St. John 21:5 and 12 and Jeremiah 12:9.

SATURDAY MORNING

9:30—Song service by Brother Curtis Taylor, prayer by Rev. J. L. Lavender. Moderator asked for a move and second that the body go into business.

The committee on finance made its final report, which was received and the committee discharged.

The General Business Committee made a final report which was read by sections and adopted and the committee discharged.

A partial report of Committee on Queries and Resolutions was received, read by sections and adopted, and committee retained.

10:30—Recess.

11:00—Song service by J. T. Johnson, prayer by E. W. Graves.

Preaching was omitted and the Moderator appointed the committee to handle the Super Annuation funds which was as follows. E. W. Graves, R. P. Ritch, J. L. Lavender.

A final report of the committee on Queries and Resolutions was made and received and the committee discharged. The Nominating

Committee also made a final report and was discharged. Pell City being a new member in the Association, asked for the next session and received it unanimously.

Officers elected were as follows: M. E. Carpenter, Moderator; R. P. Ritch, Vice Moderator; D. G. Jordan, Clerk; W. H. Ryland, Statistician.

The newly elected Moderator appointed the following committees: Business Committee, Joe S. Frederick, chairman; D. C. Hall, and L. E. Parker.

Program Committee: E. W. Graves, chairman; J. H. Cole, A. F. Barnes.

A move was carried to omit the Queries for this meeting, after which a move was made and carried to adjourn.

While the choir sang: God Be With You, there was a great demonstration of love in a goodbye hand shake. —M. E. CARPENTER, Moderator; D. G. JORDAN, Clerk.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES

FINANCE COMMITTEES—We your committee on finance, make the following report: we have collected as follows:

Union Chapel Church.....	\$1.00
Macedonia Church.....	\$1.00
Springfield Church.....	\$1.61
Liberty Association.....	\$5.00
Progressive Association.....	\$1.00
Mt. Harmony Church.....	\$2.42

TOTAL.....\$12.03

—J. M. STOKES, Chairman

GENERAL BUSINESS COMMITTEE

We the General Business Committee make the following report:

First. We recommend that each Association adopt the same Articles of Faith as endorsed by the general conference.

Second. That we appoint a statistician for the state.

Third. That we appoint a nominating committee at each session.

Fourth. That the Clerk superintend the printing of the minutes.

Fifth. That a general report taken from each Association be printed in table form in our minutes.

Sixth. That we appoint a program committee.

Seventh. That this Association meet Thursday night before the Second Sunday in November each year and extend through Friday and Saturday.

Eighth. That the election of officers be at the close of each session.

Ninth. That this body by popular vote decide the place of the next Association.

Tenth. We recommend the newly elected Moderator appoint a general business committee to serve throughout his administration.

Eleventh. To finance this Association, each association shall pay

\$5.00 to this fund. In case any association fails to represent, and the church of said association may represent by two delegates and \$1.00 fee.

Twelfth. We recommend that article one of Constitution be changed so as to read as follows.

This Association shall be composed of messengers chosen by the various Associations. All regular ordained ministers, deacons and clerks and any individual church that qualifies.

Thirteenth. We recommend that the Constitution of this Association be printed in the Minutes.

Fourteenth. That each church in the various Associations of the state, with the pastor set aside a day in each year to the honor of our aged and infirmed Ministers and that an offering be taken, for them Funds turned over to Superannuation Board, to be created for the purpose of distributing to those who are in need.

Fifteenth. We recommend the Moderator appoint a committee composed of three members to be in charge of all Superannuation work. They may pay out no funds until an investigation is made and upon the endorsement of Moderator and Clerk of this Association.

Sixteenth. We recommend that each church in the various associations set apart a day in each year for the purpose of raising evangelistic funds to be used only in the state. The funds to be raised by a free will offering in said churches by the pastors.—JOE S. FREDERICK, Chairman.

QUERRIES AND RESOLUTIONS

We your committee on Querries and Resolutions wish to submit the following querries for discussion:

1. How long is the period of time between the first and second resurrection?

2. Is there any chance for a man to apostitize and then be renewed again?

3. Is there any difference between the Spirit of Christ and the Holy Spirit?

4. Is water Baptism essential to Salvation?

5. We wish to tender our sincere thanks to Mount Harmony and community for the able manner in which they have cartd for us during our stay among them.

We pray God's richest blessings to be bestowed upon them.

J. L. LAVENDER, Chairman.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

We your Nominating Committee, make the following nominations:

M. E. Carpenter, Moderator; R. P. Ritch, Assistant Moderator; D. G. Jordan, Clerk; W. H. Ryland, statistician; Curtis Taylor, Chairman.

CONSTITUTION

1. This Association shall be composed of messengers chosen by the various Associations, all regular ordained ministers, deacons, and clerks and any individual church that qualifies.

2. Letters from different Associations shall express their number in fellowship, the number receiving by experience, letter or recommendation, dismissed, restored, and that have died since our last Association; and the name of the clerk, moderator, county, post office, Sabbath of meeting, and the amount paid for Minute funds.

3. The members thus chosen and convened to be denominated the State Association of Free Will Baptist, being composed of the subordinate associations of the State of Alabama, and the Association to have no power to Lord it over God's heritage, nor to have any ecclesiastical power of the Association, reserving the right of with drawing from any Association becoming disorderly.

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4. The Association shall have a Moderator, Clerk and a Corresponding Clerk, who are to be chosen by the suffrage of the members present.
 5. New Associations may be admitted into the Association by letter and delegates, found Orthodox in the faith of Free Will Baptist, the Moderator giving the right hand of fellowship.
 6. Every motion made and seconded shall come under the consideration of the Association unless it be withdrawn by the members making it.
 7. This Association is to endeavor to furnish the subordinate Association with the Minutes of this Association in proportion to the number of members in each Association, the distribution being at the direction of the Association.
 8. It shall be the duty of the Clerk to keep a regular file of the minutes.
 9. The Minutes of the Association shall be read and corrected if needed, and signed by the Moderator and Clerk before the Association closes.
 10. The Association shall have a fund for her support which shall be supplied by voluntary contribution of the Association, whose duty it shall be to send it to the hands of the messengers, which may so sent, shall be deposited in the hands of the Treasury for that purpose, and he shall be held accountable to the Association for all money received by him until paid as they may direct.
 11. The Association, in case of failure of any any association to attend may inquire into the cause.
 12. It is the duty of the Association to see after the union of the Association.
 13. Amendments to this plan of government may be made at any time when the majority of the members may deem it necessary.