

# **MINUTES**

of the

## **Alabama Ministerial Conference**

of

### **FREE WILL BAPTIST**

Convened With

### **Brilliant-Boston Church**

At

### **Brilliant, Alabama**



#### **OFFICERS:**

REV. J. D. BYARS,-----President  
REV. S. T. SHUTES,-----Vice-President  
REV. M. L. HOLLIS,-----Secy-Treas.

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The next session of this Conference will convene with Union Chapel Church, Nine miles east of Vernon. Ala, beginning on Friday night, before the Fifth anday in January, 1932.

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# **PROCEEDINGS**

## **OF THE**

### **ALABAMA MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE**

#### **OF**

##### **FREE WILL BAPTIST**



The Conference convened with the church at Brilliant, Alabama, on Friday night, before the 5th Sunday in March, 1931, at 7:30. Owing to the heavy rain fall of that day and night, only a few Ministers were present for the opening service. After a short song service and a number of short prayers, the conference was dismissed by the President to re-assemble at 8:00 o'clock Saturday morning.

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### **Saturday's Session**

Saturday morning at 8 o'clock, the Ministers present, met back at the church. After scripture reading by M. L. Hollis and prayer by Rev. Eddie Hughes, the President, Rev. S. T. Shutes, proceeded with the business. The former Secretary, Rev. O. C. Weaver, being absent, M. L. Hollis was appointed by the President to act as secretary pro tem until the body was fully organized.

After the President had given his opening talk, the following Ministers answered to the roll call: Revs. S. T. Shutes, J. M. Haas, M. L. Hollis, Eddie Hughes and the following visitors: E. W. Graves and Rev. S. S. Kelley, a young Missionary Baptist Minister. These visitors were welcomed to sit with us in all our deliberations by the President. The following committees were appointed:



On Documents and Order of Business Revs. J. M. Haas and Eddie Hughes with the assistance of the President

On Resolutions, Revs J. D. Byars, T. J. Adair and A. L. Warren. The conference was recessed for committee work. Talks were made on the good of the order by several Ministers. Rev. S. T. Shutes give his lecture on the Task of the Church.

At eleven o'clock Rev. J. M. Haas preached a good sermon on the subject of the Holy Spirit and its Work. After preaching, the Conference adjourned one hour for lunch

At 1:00 P. M., the Conference was called together by the President. Rev. S. S. Kelley led the Devotional services, prayer by Bro. E. W. Graves. The following Ministers came in for the afternoon session and their names were enrolled: Revs. J. D. Byars, T. J. Adair, A. L. Warren and J. H. Potts.

Proceeded to elect officers for the ensuing year and the following were elected: Rev J. D. Byars, President, Rev S. T. Shutes, Vice President and M. L. Hollis, Secretary. The newly elected President took his seat and after some very appropriate remarks, proceeded with the business.

Called for the report on Documents and order of business. The report was read and adopted. See report. Called for report on Resolutions. This report was adopted. See report. The business was suspended for an address by Rev. Eddie Hughes, Field Secretary for the Tri-State League Convention. After a song by the congregation, Rev. Hughes spoke to a large audience of earnest listeners on the subject "Winning the young to Christ." This address was greatly appreciated by all who heard it. The President expressed his appreciation and for the Ministers, for this wonderful message to the youth of our church, and for the great work that Bro. Hughes is doing among our young people of the three states he represents,

There was a move and second that the Secretary write all the clerks of the Associations in Alabama and ask them to urge all their Ministers to attend the next session of this Conference. Carried. At this time the meeting was thrown open for talks by different Ministers. Most all the Ministers made short talks on various subjects and the Spirit of Joy seemed to rest upon all present. Moved and second that Rev. S. T. Shutes prepare the program for the next conference. Carried. After song and prayer the meeting adjourned to meet back at 7 o'clock, p. m. for preaching.

At 7 p. m., a large crowd had gathered back at the church. Some 15 minutes were spent in a very spiritual song service. Bro. E. W. Graves conducted the devotional services. At 7:30 Rev. J. D. Byars entered the pulpit and preached a wonderful sermon on the subject: "Ye must be born again"

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## Sunday Session.

Sunday at 9:30 a. m. a large crowd assembled for Sunday School. At 10:30 the Junior F. W. B. League surprised the Ministers with an excellent program gotten up under the direction of their Superintendent, Mrs. Fields. The program was greatly enjoyed by all present. At 11 o'clock Rev. S. T. Shutes arranged a large choir that sang a number of spirit filled songs, after which Evangelist J. B. Bloss, of Mt. Pleasant, Tenn., preached a soul stirring sermon. Using as his Text "Is it I?" At the close of the sermon there was a hand shaking amidst tears and joy. Dismissed by prayer by Rev G. W. Franks. Visitors and Ministers greatly enjoyed the good dinner prepared by the good people of Brilliant-Boston.



## Afternoon Session

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At 2:00 p. m. the house was again filled to standing room, after a few songs and prayer, Rev. Eddie Hughes preached a soul inspiring sermon, using as his subject, "The bow of Promise." This message was greatly enjoyed by all.

A short business session was held after which the congregation was dismissed by the President to meet with the Union Chapel Church, near Crossville, Ala., on the pike road between Vernon and Fayette, beginning on Friday at 7:00 p. m., before the 5th Sunday in January, 1932.

REV. J. D. BYARS, President.

REV. S. T. SHUTES, Vice-President.

REV. M. L. HOLLIS, Secretary.

The following Ministers were present and requested that their names be listed as members of this Conference:

Rev. J. D. Byars, Millport, Ala.

Rev. S. T. Shutes, Vernon, Ala.

Rev. J. M. Haas, Tupelo, Miss.

Rev. M. L. Hollis, Red Bay, Ala.

Rev. A. L. Warren, Brilliant, Ala.

Rev. T. J. Adair, Cordova, Ala.

Rev. Eddie Hughes, Macon, Ga.

Rev. J. B. Bloss, Mt. Pleasant, Tenn.

Rev. G. W. Franks, Cordova, Ala.

Rev. J. R. Williams, Brilliant, Ala.

Rev. Albert Melton, Florence, Ala.

Dues of \$1.00 each was paid in by the following Ministers; Revs. S. T. Shutes, J. B. Bloss, J. M. Haas, J. R. Williams, J. H. Potts and M. L. Hollis. Others promised to send in dues.

## On Documents and Order of Business

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We, your Committee on Documents and order of Business submit the following:

1. We recommend the usual order of business.

2. That the Secretary superintend the publishing of the minutes, and that he revise the Constitution and By-Laws and put same in minutes, further that he have five [\$5.00] dollars for his services

3. That the 1932 Session of this Conference be held with Union Chapel Church, 9 miles east of Vernon, Alabama, beginning on Friday night before the 5th Sunday in January, 1932, and that the President of the Conference preach the Introductory sermon; that Rev. J. H. Potts be his alternate.

4. That the President appoint a Program Committee.

Respectfully submitted,

J. M. Haas, Chairman.

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## Resolutions.

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

1. We recommend the usual order of business.

2. Be it resolved by this Conference, that we express our thanks and appreciation to Brilliant-Boston Church and community for the hospitality and entertainment we have enjoyed during the setting of the Conference.

Respectfully submitted

Rev. J. D. Byars,

Rev. T. J. Adair,

Rev. A. L. Warren, Committee.



## Constitution.

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1. This organization shall be known as the Alabama Ministerial Conference of Free Will Baptist.

2. The officers of this Conference shall consist of a President Vice-President and Secretary-Treasurer.

3. This Conference shall be composed of licensed and ordained ministers of the Original Free Will Baptist Church in the State of Alabama, or ministers who are pastoring or doing special work among our churches in Alabama, who are of recognized standing, and teaching no other doctrine than that taught by the Original Free Will Baptist, provided they apply for membership in said Conference and are accepted by same.

4. Any minister, licensed or ordained, applying for membership in this Conference shall be referred to an investigating committee, if said committee find him worthy, he may become a member of the conference upon a favorable vote of two-thirds of the ministers present.

5. All members shall be required to make an annual report of their ministerial labors, and report to be placed in the minutes.

6. The duties of the President shall be to preside over each session, preserve order, govern the body according to parliamentary usages, and such other duties belonging to said office.

7. The duties of the Vice President shall be the same as that of the President in his absence.

8. The duties of the Recording Secretary shall be to keep an accurate record of the transactions of the Conference and preserve same, and to keep all valuable documents, and to surrender same to his successor in office, and also when act-

ing as treasurer, he shall hold all money belonging to the Conference. He shall also keep a correct record of same and make a report to the Conference annually. He shall only pay out said money when ordered by the Conference to do so.

9. This Constitution may be amended or added to by a legal vote of the majority of the members at any regular session, provided said amendment be presented in writing to the Conference five hours prior to the taking of the vote.

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## By-Laws

1. This organization shall meet annually at such time as may be designated by the body, and shall remain in session until all the business is transacted, and as long thereafter as the organization may see fit.

2. Membership in this organization shall be dependent on conditions as stated in the Constitution, and in addition, the payment of an annual fee of \$1.00. The disbursement of such funds shall be left to the discretion of the Conference.

3. Any member failing to pay said dues without a valid excuse for such failure, shall be excluded from membership and from participating in the benefits of this Conference.

4. Any member desiring to speak on any subject before the body, shall arise, address the presiding officer and be recognized by him before he shall proceed.

5. No member shall speak more than twice on any subject, without permission from the body.

6. Any member using slang or making cutting remarks on any subject, before this body, shall be silenced and seated by the chair.

7. These By Laws may be amended or added to in the same way as the Constitution.



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## Form of Application Blank

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I hereby make application to become a member of The Alabama Ministerial Conference. Promising, if admitted, to be loyal to same and to abide by the Constitution and decisions of the Conference.

I hold Membership in the -----

----- Association.

Name-----

Postoffice-----

The above is an invitation to YOU to become a member of this Conference. Fill in the blanks and mail same to Secretary, and be present at our next meeting, on Friday night, before the 5th Sunday in January, 1932.

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## Order of Business.

1. Devotional service and introductory sermon.
2. Calling the Conference to order.
3. Calling roll and reading of minutes.
4. Election of officers.
5. Appointment of Committees.
6. Unfinished Business.
7. New Business.
8. Miscellaneous Business.
9. Report of Committees.
10. Report of Treasurer.
11. Adjournment.