

MINUTES
of the
THIRTY-SIXTH ANNUAL SESSION
of the
Bear Creek Freewill
Baptist Association

held with
OAK GROVE CHURCH
October 6, 7, 8, 1933

OFFICERS

Rev. Ira D. Garrison,	Moderator
Rev. J. F. Williams,	Assistant Moderator
C. A. Porter,	Clerk
J. W. Doss,	Corresponding Secretary

The next session of this Association will meet with
New Prospect, Four miles East of Lynn Station, in
Winston County, Friday before the second Sunday in
October, 1934.

PROCEEDINGS

The Thirty-sixth Annual Session of the Bear Creek Freewill Baptist Association convened with Oak Grove Church October 6th, 7th, and 8th., 1933.

The Introductory Sermon was preached by Rev. C. W. Phillips, text, Titus 2:11. After which an Intermission of one hour was taken for refreshments.

The Association then reassembled in the house. Singing by congregation. Prayer by Rev. W. H. Pearce, then another song by the congregation. The former Moderator and Clerk being present. The moderator declared the house in order for transaction of business. The Moderator appointed J. W. Doss and J. F. Williams reading clerks.

The Moderator then called for letters from each church, was handed in and read as per statistical table then called for petitionary letters, two received. Mars Hill and Wells Chappel giving right hand of fellowship to the delegates. The Moderator then called for correspondence from sister associations and new churches and all the delegates were seated.

The Association then proceeded to permanently organize by electing officers as follows:

Rev. Ira D. Garrison, Moderator; Rev. J. F. Williams, Assistant Moderator; C. A. Porter, Associational Clerk; J. W. Doss, Corresponding Secretary.

The Moderator then appointed committees as follows:

On Devotion, J. W. Doss, Neal Miller and G. R. Porter Hustion Wells with Deacons of this church, Oak Grove.

On Document and Order of Business, J. F. Williams, W. O. McDonald, R. A. Sullivan, with Moderator and Clerk.

On Sabbath School, W. H. Lawrence, C. W. Phillips and Van Vickery.

On Roll of Ministers, Andrew Estell, W. M. Martin and G. R. Porter.

On Finance, W. H. Lawrence, Sallie Wells, and K. A. Phillips.

On Deceased Ministers and Members, Myrtle Garrison, William Arnold and Nora Mae Wells.

On Literature, W. H. Pearce, L. O. Bates and Bill Bates.

Adjourned until next morning.

Saturday morning the Association met according to adjournment. After singing by the congregation, and prayer and another song, the Moderator called the roll and a quorum being present, declared house in order for business. Called for reports of committees which were handed in and adopted and committees discharged as follows:

ON DOCUMENT AND ORDER OF BUSINESS

We, your committee, beg leave to report:

First, That we correspond with Sister Associations.

Second, That our Deacon Investigate the standing of ministers unknown to them, who try to fill our desks.

Third, That the Clerk be allowed \$5.00 for his service and that he superintend the printing of the Minutes.

Fourth, That the Moderator be allowed \$5.00 for his service and that he looks after the distitute churches and tries to fill each with a Pastor.

Fifth, That a church wishing to be organized, shall call to their assistance an ordained minister of our denomination, who being in good standing with the Association, shall call a Presbytery consisting of not less than two ministers or deacons and one clerk of our denomination in good standing. The articles of Faith and church covenant shall be read and adopted.

Sixth, That each male member of each church pay not less than 25 cents each year for Association funds.

Seventh, That we receive no Baptism except it be administered by a man ordained by a legal Presbytery., and that we except no Baptism except it be in the name of the Father and Son and Holy Ghost.

J. F. Williams, Chairman

COMMITTEE ON SABBATH SCHOOLS

We, your committee, beg leave to report we find six Sabbath Schools in the bounds of our Association, viz. Oak Grove, Delmar, Blue Springs, Hickory Grove, New Prospect, and Wells Chappel

W. H. Lawrence, Chairman.

COMMITTEE ON ROLL OF MINISTERS

We, your committee, beg leave to report we find ordained ministers in good standing as follows:

Rev. Z. A. Frost, Haleyville, Ala., Route One.

Rev. Ira D. Garrison, Delmar, Ala.

Rev. O. G. Lane, Double Springs, Ala., Route Three.

Rev. C. W. Phillips, Carbon Hill, Ala.

Rev. W. O. McDonald, Empire, Ala.

Rev. J. M. Kelsey, Double Springs, Ala., Route Three.

Rev. W. H. Pearce, Russellville, Ala., Route Six.

Rev. R. A. Sullivan, Russellville, Ala., Route Six.

Rev. W. H. Lawrence, Cullman, Ala.

Rev. J. F. Williams, Empire, Ala., Route One.

Rev. Henry Clark, Haleyville, Ala., Route One.

Licentiates

Rev. F. A. Alexander, Fall City, Ala., Route One.

ON DECEASED MINISTERS AND MEMBERS

We, your committee, beg leave to report we find four deaths Corinth, Two as follows:

Bro. John Batemen, age 49 years; Bro. Billie Watson, age 81 years.

Oak Grove: Rev. J. H. Duboise, age 85 years

Hickory Grove, J. D. Taylor, age 40 years.

We have lost the sweet companionship of these loved ones, but our loss is heaven's gain, so let us bow in humble submission to His will and be ready when He calls us to meet these loved ones, where parting will be no more.

Myrtle Garrison, Chairman

COMMITTEE ON LITERATURE

We, your committee, beg leave to report:

We recommend the prayerful study of The Holy Bible, also that our members subscribe to the Freewill Baptist paper printed at Ayden, N. C. Further that we use good literature in our Sabbath Schools

W. H. Pearce, Chairman.

Adjourned for preaching. Saturday at eleven o'clock Bro. J. H. Homes preached, followed by Bro. J. F. Williams. After preaching, dismissed one hour for refreshments.

Saturday afternoon then reassembled in the house singing by congregation. After prayer and another song preceded with the business.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

We, your committee, beg leave to report we find in the treasury \$13.15, taken a collection of \$4.50 and Saturday night Blue Springs was represented with letter and \$2.00. Minutes funds total \$19.65. By move and second, the money was turned over to the Clerk and instructed to have the minutes printed.

W. H. Lawrence, Chairman

GENERAL BUSINESS

Elected Elder J. F. Williams to fill the place of O. G. Lane. Presbytery taken up the ordination of Deacons and Ministers. Minutes as follows:

W. H. Pearce, R. A. Sullivan and W. H. Lawrence, these choose their spokesmen and were ordained.

Deacons ordained: J. T. Dodd, he spoke for himself, after examining of Rev. Henry Clark, surrendered his old credentials of the Missionary Baptist church and was given Freewill Baptist credentials. Move and second that we correspond with Sister Association. Appointed delegates (Flint River), Rev. Z. A. Frost and Rev. J. F. Williams.

Moved and seconded we correspond by letter to the State Line Muscle Shoals and State Line Association, Morning Star Association.

REPORT OF EVANGELIST

I have traveled about 250 miles, preached about 40 sermons, Baptised 6, received as help from Funt River Association \$2.00 from Blue Springs, 70 cents, from Ira D. Garrison, \$14.00, total \$16.70.
J. F. Williams, Evangelist

RECEIVED A MOTION IN ORDER

That we elect Elder J. F. Williams as our Evangelist for the ensuing year. Moved and a second, that the next session of this body meet with New Prospect church, four miles East of Lynn Station, in Winston County. Elected Elder Henry Clark to preach the Introductory Sermon and Elder W. H. Lawrence, Alternate Committee appointed to point out the Evangelist route, Elder Z. A. Frost, Elder Ira D. Garrison, Elder Henry Clark and J. W. Doss.

A motion of thanks was extended to Oak Grove church and community for their kindness and hospitality shown us during our stay among them, also to the officers of this Association for their faithful discharge of their duties during this meeting. The parting hand was taken amid tears and rejoicing dismissed by prayer by Rev. Ira D. Garrison.

C. A. Porter, Clerk

DEVOTION

Introductory Sermon preached by Elder C. W. Phillips, Friday at 11 o'clock.

Friday night, Elder Henry Clark, followed by Elder Ira D. Garrison.

Saturday at 11 o'clock Elder J. H. Homes, followed by Elder J. F. Williams.

Saturday night, Elder Miller and Elder Lawrence.

Sunday at 11 o'clock, Elder Z. A. Frost. After preaching taken Sacrament and Washed Feet, led by Elder Z. A. Frost.

CHURCH COVENANT

Having been brought, as we humbly trust, by divine grace to embrace the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior and having obtained justification by faith in His name, as members of the Free-

will Baptist Church at
agree:

1. To watch over each other in love, to pray for each other as members of a common faith, ever striving to keep the unity of the spirit in the bonds of peace.

2. We will not speak evil of another, nor will we prosecute or expose the faults of the weak members of our church, but we will endeavor to be governed by Paul's instructions to Timothy: "That we will reprove, rebuke and exhort" each other as members of a common brotherhood.

3. We are commanded to do good unto all men, especially to those who are of the household faith. But we should remember that our relations to each other are closer, and the obligations more binding, than that of a common bond of Christian Charity. In adopting this covenant we become as a family, and assume in

a Christian sense the care and responsibility that the members of a family should feel for each other.

4. We will attend the stated meetings of our church unless we are providentially hindered or uncontrollable circumstances prevent us. And we will contribute of our means as the Lord has prospered us for the support of our pastor and other necessary expenses of our church. And we will prefer the service of our church to that of any other, and will pray for our pastor while he is preaching the word to us.

5. We will not injure our influence in the house of the Lord by accepting seats among the ungodly and sinners, but will occupy seats near the pulpit and use the natural powers which the Lord has given us to praise His Holy Name. We will sing with those who sing and pray with those who pray.

6. We will not be guilty of the sin of Sabbath breaking by making Sunday visits to our neighbors which is a double sin against the law of God for in so doing we fail to attend the house of the Lord and hinder others who might wish to do so. Let us remember the laws of Moses which condemn Sabbath breaking and the words of the inspired apostle which says, "Forsake not the assembling of yourselves together as the manner of some is."

7. We will not neglect secret and public prayers, and those of us who are heads of families will strive to dedicate our household to the service of God by teaching our children the great necessity of the Christian religion as the only hope of happiness after death. We will adopt the covenant of Joshua, the servant of the Lord, and say: "But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

CONSTITUTION

1. This Association shall be known as the Bear Creek Free-will Baptist Association, of Alabama, being composed of ministers and delegates from the different churches forming the same, each church being entitled to three delegates with their ministers.

2. This body shall be considered as an advisory council, but having no authority over the affairs of the churches.

3. Each church in this association shall be considered an advisory body and shall control its own internal affairs and all matters of discipline, etc. It may, however in extreme cases, call for aid from sister churches.

4. All questions of doctrine and matters of general interest shall be settled by a two-thirds vote of the Association and the decision shall be final.

5. The officers of this Association shall be, Moderator, Assistant Moderator, Clerk, Treasurer and Corresponding Secretary.

6. This Association shall meet annually at such times and places as may be agreed upon by a previous session and shall not adjourn finally until the business is transacted.

7. Churches wishing to become members of this Association must adopt its articles of faith and conform to its usages.

8. We agree as churches of this Association to use our best influence to promote the interest of all moral and benevolent institutions, such as the temperance cause, Sabbath Schools, Mis-

sionary work and so forth.

9. No member of the Association shall be eligible to the office of Moderator more than two successive sessions unless no other member be competent to act in that capacity.

10. Any church if this Association failing to be represented for two years in succession shall be dropped from our minutes.

11. The Moderator shall appoint all committees.

12. All business coming before this body shall be recommended, if constitutional. If the committee refuse any query brought before them, the one that presented it shall have a right to bring it before the Association committee standing during the session.

RULES OF DECORUM

1. The Association shall be called to order by the Moderator who presided at the last session, former Clerk, also officiating until the body is fully organized.

2. The Association shall be opened and closed with singing and prayer.

3. The Moderator and Clerk shall be chosen by ballot at each session of the Association, a majority of the votes by the delegates present shall elect.

4. The names of the delegates from the church shall be enrolled and called as often as necessary during the session.

5. A majority of delegates present shall rule in all cases except in the reception of churches, then it shall be unanimous.

6. The Moderator shall not be entitled to vote except in case of a tie and then he shall give the deciding vote. He shall be entitled to speak on any question after others have spoken, provided he appoints some one to the chair while he is speaking.

7. Only one person shall speak at the time, who shall rise and address the Moderator.

8. No person will be allowed to speak more than twice on the same subject without leave of the Association, nor more than fifteen minutes at a time.

9. No person shall laugh and talk during the time the debates are going on.

10. No member shall absent himself from the Association without leave of the Association.

11. That not less than three officiating officers compose a legal presbytery.

ARTICLE OF FAITH

1. GOD—We believe that there is one and only one true and living God, who is in personality the Father, Son and Holy Ghost equal and harmonious in every divine perfection. Corinthians 8:6; and Matthew 28:19.

2. THE HOLY SCRIPTURE—We believe that God is the author of the Holy Bible and its teachings constitute the only infallible doctrines for the government of His church: II Timothy: 3:16.

3. ORIGINAL APOSTACY—We believe that Adam was

created Holy but by voluntary transgression fell into depravity and consequently involved his posterity in sin. Gen. 2:17; and Gen. 3:3.

4. **FREE GRACE**—We believe the Grace of God comprehends all spiritual blessings, that the Gospel is the power of God unto Salvation, that the Holy Spirit not only reproves the world of sin, but is the means whereby sinners are converted and made wise unto Salvation. Matt. 10:8 and Matt. 11:27.

5. **CHRISTIAN FAITH**—We believe that Christian Faith is the belief in the Lord Jesus Christ as the Son of God, the Redeemer of the world and in the divinity of the Holy Scriptures, that faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God. I John 1; Romans 10:17.

6. **REPENTANCE**—We believe that repentance is sorrow for sin and the kind of sorrow which produces Godly repentance must be proceeded by effectual conviction of sin. Corinthians 7:10; and Romans 2:4.

7. **FREE AGENCY**—We believe that the human will is free and that men have the ability to accept or reject the conditions of salvation as they are revealed in the Holy Scripture. Joshua 24:15; Matthews 6:24.

8. **PRESEVERANCE**—We do not believe under gospel dispensation the soul is elected to eternal life unconditionally, but that those who by faith persevere to the end will be saved; that it is possible for men who have been converted to make shipwreck of their faith, turn again to sin and be finally lost. II Peter 2:20; John 15:6.

9. **OF GOOD WORK**—We believe that good work is the result of faith and of necessity; that those who haven't faith cannot do anything pleasing unto God.

10. **OF CHRISTIAN BAPTISM**—We believe that Christian Baptism is the immersion in water of a believer in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost—that baptism cannot be scripturally administered without faith in the subject who receives it.

11. **OF THE LORD'S SUPPER**—We believe that the Supper was instituted by our Savior as a commemorative ordinance; that the bread and wine represent His body and blood; that it was instituted for Christians, and all Christians should unite in observing that sacred service, regardless of name or denominational distinction; we also believe that the Saints ought to wash each other's feet.

12. **OF THE SOUL**—We believe that man is a living soul, that the body will die, but the soul is immortal, that death is the separation of the mortal and immortal parts of the human body.

13. **OF SANCTIFICATION**—We believe in holiness and sanctification in this life, by the power and gift of God.

14. We believe in the Resurrection of the dead, when the Resurrection shall take place in the soul and body will unite and form an immortal being; that the righteous will be received into a state of everlasting happiness to reign with God forever and ever, "but the wicked will be bound hand and foot and cast into outer darkness; the wicked are driven away in their wickedness, but the righteous have hope in their death."

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Invite visiting brethren and sisters to seats with us.
2. Reading minutes of last meeting.
3. Call for references.
4. Call for peace and fellowship.
5. Open door of Church for the reception of members.
6. Call for contribution for church expenses.
7. Call for Acknowledgements.
8. Call for new miscellaneous business.
9. Motion for adjournment.

FORM OF LETTER TO ASSOCIATION

State of County of
We, the Church of Christ at of the
Freewill order sendeth greetings to the ministers, messengers
and delegates composing the
annual session of the Bear Creek Freewill Baptist Association.

We send as delegates: whom we
deem as worthy of seats with you.

Our statistics are as follows:

Received by baptism; Received by letter;
received by restoration; received by recommendation
.....; dismissed by letter died; excluded
.....; minute fund; association fund;
former pastor; present pas-
tor; ordained ministers
.....; day of
meeting; total membership We
petition the association to meet with us at

This done by order of church in conference.

Remarks:

Rev. Moderator
P. O. Church Clerk

FORM OF CHURCH LETTER

State of County of

This is to certify that our beloved Brother (or Sister)

..... is in full fellowship with

us, the Freewill Baptist Church of Christ at

..... and is hereby dismissed from
us when joined to some other church within twelve months.

This done by order of church in conference this
day of 193

Rev. Moderator
..... Clerk

STATISTICAL TABLE FOR 1934

CHURCH	PASTOR	CLERK	Members	Minute Fund	Meeting Day
Mars Hill	W. A. Cummings	Roberta Bates, Phil Campbell, Ala., Rt. 1	17	\$1.40	1st.
Wells Chappel	Z. A. Frost	Bessie Wells, Haleyville, Ala., Rt.1	7	000	1st.
Blue Springs	W. H. Lawrence	Rosia Carpenter, Phil Campbell, Ala., Rt 4.	46	2.00	1st.
Oak Grove	Clifton Kimbrough	C. A. Porter, Phil Campbell, Ala., Rt. 4.	100	1.50	4th.
Hickory Grove	F. A. Alexander	Baid McGough	40	2.50	3rd.
Corinth	C. W. Phillips	W. M. Gilbert, Nauvoo, Ala., Rt. 2.	12	3.00	4th.
Delmar	Ira D. Garrison	Myrtle Garrison, Delmar, Ala.	14	1.50	3rd.
New Prospect	Ira D. Garrison	J. A. Estell, Delmar, Ala., Rt.1.	33	2.75	2nd.
Mt. Moriah	Ira D. Garrison	Maud Barnett, Haleyville, Ala., Rt. 4.	6	.50	4th
TOTAL			275	15.15	