

MINUTES
of the
THIRTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL SESSION
of the
**Bear Creek Free Will Baptist
Association**

held with
HICKORY GROVE CHURCH

October 11, 12, 13, 1935

OFFICERS

Rev. Cliffton Kimbrough, Moderator
Rev. O. G. Lane, Assistant Moderator
C. A. Porter, Clerk
E. N. Garrison, Corresponding Sec'y

The next session of the Association will meet
with Oak Grove, five miles south of Newburg, Ala.,
in Franklin county, Friday before the second Sunday
in October, 1936.

g. f. Kimbrough
O. G. Lane
C. A. Porter
E. N. Garrison

Box 776

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PROCEEDINGS

The Thirty-Eighth Annual Session of the Bear Creek Free Will Baptist Association convened with Hickory Grove church, October 11, 12 and 13, 1935.

The Introductory Sermon was preached by Elder Clifton Kimbrough, followed by Elder W. H. Lawrence. Scripture Text Isaiah 2nd. After which an intermission of one hour was taken for refreshments, Friday at noon.

The Association then re-assembled with singing by the congregation and prayer by Rev. Ira D. Garrison and 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 Rev. C. W. Phillips, Bro. Zeak Garrison, Reading Clerks.

The Moderator then called for letters from each church, they were handed in and read as per statistical table.

The Moderator then called for correspondence from sister Associations and delegates were seated.

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

Elder Clifton Kimbrough, Moderator; Elder O. G. Lane, Assisant Moderator; C. A. Porter, Clerk; E. N. Garrison, Corresponding Secretary.

The Moderator then appointed committees as follows:

On Devotion—Bros. G. R. Porter, J. T. Cagle, Joe Williams.

On Document and Order of Business—Bros. Alvie Alexander, Johnnie Whitman, Alton Cagle with Moderator and the Clerk.

On Sabbath Schools—Sister Katie Tanton, Sister Spain and Irean Barron.

On Roll of Ministers and Deacons—Bros. Neri Frost, E. N. Garrison and W. L. Tenton.

Finance—Bros. Dave Shellnutt, J. A. Barns and Lim Alexander.

On Deceased Ministers and Members—Elder O. G. Lane, Elder Z. A. Frost and D. W. Alexander.

On Literature—Bros. Tom Alexander, Emil Alexander, and Rev. W. O. McDonald.

Adjournment until next morning.

SATURDAY MORNING

The Association met according to adjournment, singing by congregation and prayer by Bro. Tom Alexander. 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 deacons 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 look after the destitute churches and try 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 it be done in the name of the Father and Son and Holy Ghost.

Eighth, That we will not ordain any minister or deacon who has more than one living wife, regardless of whatsoever their excuse might be.

Nine, That we investigate the standing of ordained ministers that present themselves for membership.

OLIVIE ALEXANDER, Chairman.

REPORT ON SABBATH SCHOOLS

We, your committee, beg leave to report we find six Sabbath schools. Oak Grove has about eighty members, Mammoth Chapel has sixty-three members, Blue Springs has about thirty members, Hickory Grove has about thirty-five members, New Prospect has about thirty-five members and Corinth has about twenty-five members.

OLVIE ALEXANDER, Chairman.

REPORT ON MINISTERS

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

Rev. Z. A. Frost, Haleyville, Ala., Route 1.
 Rev. Ira D. Garrison, Delmar, Ala.
 Rev. O. G. Lane, Double Springs, Ala., Route 3.
 Rev. C. W. Phillips, Carbon Hill, Ala.
 Rev. W. O. McDonald, Manchester, Ala.
 Rev. J. M. Kelley, Double Springs, Ala., Route 3.
 Rev. W. H. Pearce, Russellville, Ala., Route 6.
 Rev. R. A. Sullivan, Russellville, Ala., Route 6.
 Rev. J. F. Williams, Empire, Ala., Route 1.
 Rev. G. W. Turner, Carbon Hill, Ala., Route 2.
 Rev. Clifton Kimbrough, Mt. Hope, Ala., Route 2.

Licentiates

Rev. F. A. Alexander, Fall City, Ala., Route 1.
 Rev. Robert Harper.

ORDAINED DEACONS

Corinth Church

Bro. John Gilbert, Nauvoo, Ala., Route 2.

Oak Grove

Bro. G. R. Porter, Russellville, Ala., Route 6.
 Bro. B. G. Gallaway, Haleyville, Ala., Route 1.
 Bro. Lonnie Kimbrough, Mt. Hope, Ala., Route 2.
 Bro. Johnnie Whitman, Phil Campbell, Ala., Route 1.

Mars Hill

B. A. Bates, Phil Campbell, Ala., Route 1.

New Prospect

Bro. Albert Smith, Delmar, Ala., Route 1.
 Bro. George Estell, Delmar, Ala., Route 1.
 Bro. Joe Hopson, Nauvoo, Ala., Route 3.
 Bro. V. H. Gober, Delmar, Ala., Route 1.

Mammoth Chapel

Bro. W. L. Tanton, Jasper, Ala., Route 3.
 Bro. D. I. Tingle, Nauvoo, Ala., Route 4.

Hickory Grove

Bro. Joe Williams, Double Springs, Ala., Route 3.

Delmar

Bro. J. R. Brimar, Delmar, Ala.

Blue Springs

Bro. W. S. Taylor, Phil Campbell, Ala., Route 4.
 Bro. Joe Clark, Phil Campbell, Ala., Route 4.

NERI FROST, Chairman.

DECEASED MINISTERS AND MEMBERS

We, your committee, beg leave to report we find no deaths in the whole boundary of our Association.

O. G. LANE, Chairman.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

We, your committee on Finance, beg leave to report we find in the treasury \$12.60. A collection of \$3.38 was taken. Blue Springs later handed in 75 cents, which made a total of \$18.38.

Associational Expenses \$10.00; cost of printing Minutes \$12.00.

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 Free Will Baptist paper printed at Ayden, N. C., that we use Free Will Baptist Literature in our Sabbath schools.

W. F. ALEXANDER, Chairman.

Adjournment for preaching, Saturday at 11 o'clock, (noon) Singing by the congregation and prayer by G. R. Porter. Then the Moderator called the house in order for transaction of business.

NEW BUSINESS

The Moderator appointed a committee composed of Rev. Ira D. Garrison, Rev. Z. A. Frost, and Rev. O. G. Lane to make investigation of the confusion in Corinth church.

REPORT OF EVANGELIST

Elected Rev. Z. A. Frost for Evangelist, and then called for a home for the Association.

The next session of this Association will meet with Oak Grove church in Franklin county.

The Introductory Sermon will be preached by Rev. Z. A. Frost, followed by Rev. Ira D. Garrison.

Appointed delegates to visit Sister Associations.

To Progressive Association, W. L. Tanton and Rev. C. W. Phillips.

Flint River Association, Rev. Ira D. Garrison, Rev. W. O. McDonald, Rev. Clifton Kimbrough.

RECEIVED A MOTION IN ORDER

A motion of Thanks was extended to Hickory 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. The meeting was dismissed by prayer.

C. A. PORTER, Clerk.

DELEGATES FROM FLINT RIVER ASSOCIATION

Rev. J. H. Homes, Bro. W. L. Linsey and wife Brother J. D. Robison, Brother L. L. Linsey, Brother H. G. Edwards, Brother Ed Brown and wife, Rev. W. H. Lawrence and Brother Dave Lawrence.

DEVOTION

Introductory Sermon preached by Rev. Clifton Kimbrough followed by Rev. W. H. Lawrence, Friday at 11 o'clock, Text Isaiah 2.

Friday night Rev. W. L. Linsey followed by Rev. O. G. Lane, Text Mat. 3-17.

Saturday at 11 o'clock Rev. J. H. Holmes, followed by Rev. Ira D. Garrison, Text 1 Cor. 3, St. John 13-3.

Saturday night Rev. Z. A. Frost, Text 1 Cor. 11:20.

Sunday at 11 o'clock Rev. O. G. Lane followed by Alvie Alexander.

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, deacons 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 Sec'y.

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, Missionary 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 of 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, the former Clerk also officiating until the body is fully organized.

2. The Association will 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 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.

ARTICLES 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. 1 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 preceded 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; Matthew 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 preserve 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 Acknowledgments.
8. Call for new miscellaneous business.
9. Motion for adjournment.

CHURCH RULES

The following rules were adopted:

1. We agree to meet in conference quarterly or oftener if necessary to transact the business of the church.
2. The Moderator shall be chosen by the suffrage of the church in the absence of the pastor. The Moderator shall observe good order and explain all questions before he takes the voice of the church on them, and shall have the liberty of speech as any other, but no vote unless there be a tie, when he shall have the casting vote.
3. It shall be the duty of all members to fill their seats in conference and bear their part of the churches' expenses.
4. No member shall leave their seat during conference without permission from the Moderator.
5. No member shall arraign another before the church or any grievance without first taking gospel steps.
6. All business brought before the church by motion and second in Gospel-like order shall be attended to by the Church unless withdrawn by the mover.
7. Any person wishing to speak shall arise from his seat and address the Moderator, and if two arise at the same time the Moderator shall decide who shall speak first, and no member while speaking shall cast any reflection on any person, but shall adhere strictly to the subject under consideration.
8. No member shall speak more than twice on any subject without permission from the church.
9. It shall be the duty of all church members to be present at any church meeting to vote on all questions before the church, called on by the Moderator or any member of the church who may desire to obtain the mind of the whole church.
10. If any member shall remain silent during the transaction of any business of the church and afterward complain of what was done, the same shall be deemed disorderly and the member so offending shall be dealt with accordingly.
11. The members of the church shall not talk about one another slanderously, and shall not give any report or circulation that may arise against any church member, but shall make it known to the one the report is against and to no one else,

and any member doing otherwise shall be dealt with accordingly.

12. We agree to do all business by majority of the members present at any time, except touching Fellowship, which must be unanimous.

13. We agree after taking the Lord's Supper to also wash each other's feet.

FORM OF LETTER

State of County of

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

..... is in full fellowship with

us, the Free Will 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

CHURCH	COUNTIES	PASTOR	CLERK	Members	Minute Funds	Meeting Days
Blue Springs	Franklin	Ira D. Garrison..	W. S. Taylor, Phil Campbell, Ala., Rt. 4.	45	\$.75	1st.
Hickory Grove	Winston	O. G. Lane	Seriah Patton, Fall City, Ala.	38	2.00	3rd.
Corinth	Walker	C. W. Phillips ..	N. M. Gilbert, Nauvoo, Ala., Rt. 2	14	2.00	2nd.
Mt. Moriah	Winston	Ira D. Garrison..	Maud Barnet, Haleyville, Ala., Rt. 4	6	1.00	3rd.
New Prospect	Winston	John Miller	J. A. Estell, Delmar, Ala., Rt. 1	52	2.10	2nd.
Oak Grove	Franklin	C. Kimbrough	C. A. Porter, Phil Campbell, Ala., Rt. 4	114	3.50	4th.
Delmar	Winston	Ira D. Garrison..	E. N. Garrison, Haleyville, Ala., Rt. 4	21	2.00	3rd.
Well Chapel						
Mars Hill						
Mammoth Chapel	Walker		Irene Barron, Nauvoo, Ala., Rt. 4	27	1.73	2nd.