

MINUTES
of the
FORTY-FIRST ANNUAL SESSION
of the
Bear Creek Free Will Baptist
Association
held with
UNION HILL CHURCH

October 7, 8, 9, 1938.

OFFICERS

Rev. C. C. Kimbrough, Moderator
Rev. Ira D. Garrison, Assistant Moderator
C. A. Porter, Clerk
J. A. Estell, Corresponding Sec'y



The next session of this Association will meet with the New Prospect Church, four miles east of Lynn, Ala., in Winston county, Friday before the second Sunday in October, 1939.

PROCEEDINGS

The Forty-First Annual Session of the Bear Creek Free Will Baptist Association convened with Union Hill church, Octboer 7, 8 and 9, 1938.

In Introductory Sermon was preached by Rev. C. C. Kimbrough. Intermission of one hour was taken for refreshments. Friday at noon the association then reassembled with singing by the congregation, and prayer by Rev. Z. A. Frost.

The former Moderator and Clerk being present, the Moderator then called the house to order for transacting of business.

1. Appointed reading clerks as follows:

W. S. Taylor, Andrew Estell.

2. Called for letters from each church. They were handed in and read as per statistical table.

3. The rules of the association were read by Rev. Ira D. Garrison. The class sang a song, and shook hands and adopted the rules.

4. The Moderator called for petitionary letters. Received three—Leonard Chapel Church, Friendship Church and Old Poplar Springs Church.

5. The association then proceeded to permanently organize by electing officers as follows:

Rev. C. C. Kimbrough, Moderator.

Rev. Ira D. Garrison, Assistant Moderator.

C. A. Porter, Clerk.

J. A. Estell, Corresponding Secretary.

6. The Moderator then appointed committees as follows:

(Devotional)—Brcs. Olive McCrellis, H. H. Terril, John Farker.

(On Document And Order Of Business)—Rev. John Miller, Rev. Z. A. Frost, Bro. P. J. Box, with Moderator and A. C. C.

(On Sabbath Schools)—Sisters Sarah Patterson, Pearlle Spain, Martha Spain.

(On Roll Of Ministers And Deacons)—Bro. Elmer Garrison, Bro. Luther Batchelor, Bro. Hood.

(On Finance)—Rev. W. H. Pearce, Bro. W. S. Taylor, Bro. G. R. Porter.

(On Deceased Ministers And Members)—Bro. Albert, Bro. Alvie Beasley, Bro. K. L. Warren.

(On Literature)—Bro. Victor Gober, Bro. Lee Spain, Bro. Tom Mancil.

Adjourned until next morning.

SATURDAY MORNING

The Association met according to adjournment, singing by the congregation and prayer by Rev. John Miller. The Clerk called the roll and a quorum being present the Moderator declared the house in order for transaction of business. Called for reports of committees which was 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 desk.

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 services 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.

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

Tenth, We recommend that we preach two preachers in the Association while in session, limiting each to 30 minutes.

Eleventh, That each minister make a report to the Association of his year's work.

Twelfth, That the Clerk furnish blanks for the ministers to make their reports.

Thirteenth, That we take the Lord's Supper and wash feet at every association.

Fourteenth, That we read the rules of church when taking in members.

REV. JOHN MILLER, Chairman.

SABBATH SCHOOL

We, your committee, beg leave to report. We find five Sabbath Schools. Oak Grove about sixty members, New Prospect about thirty members, Blue Springs about ten members, Union Hill about sixty-five members. Friendship about members untold.

SARIAH PATTON, Chairman.

LITERATURE

We, your committee, beg leave to report. We recommend the prayerful study of the Holy Bible, also our members subscribe for the Free Will Baptist Paper at Aden, N. C., and also we use Free Will Baptist Literature.

V. H. GOBER, Chairman.

ROLL OF MINISTERS

We, your committee, beg leave to report. We find ordained ministers and deacons as follows:

(BLUE SPRINGS) Deacons

W. S. Taylor, Phil Campbell, R. 1.
Joe Clark, Phil Campbell, Ala. R. 1.

(UNION SPRINGS)

Rev. O. G. Lane, Huston, Ala.

(Deacons)

Bro. Joe Williams, Double Springs, R. 3.

(MT. MORIAH)

Not represented.

(NEW PROSPECT)

Rev. John Miller, Delmar, Ala. R. 1.
(Deacons)

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

(OAK GROVE)

Rev. C. C. Kimbrough, Russellville, Ala. R. 6.
Rev. Z. A. Frost, Russellville, Ala. R. 6.
Rev. W. H. Pearce, Russellville, Ala. R. 6.
Rev. R. A. Sullivan, Russellville, Ala. R. 6.

(Deacons)

G. R. Porter, Russellville, Ala. R. 6.
B. G. Gallaway, Russellville, Ala. R. 6.
Lonnie Kimbrough, Russellville, Ala. R. 6.
Johnie Whitman, Haleyville, Ala. R. 3.

(DELMAR)

Rev. Ira D. Garisson, Delmar, Ala.

(EDGER GROVE)

Not represented.

(UNION HILL)

Rev. D. H. Simmons, Haleyville, Ala. R. 3.
(Deacons)

Ollie McCrelis, Haleyville, Ala. R. 3.
H. H. Terril, Haleyville, Ala. R. 3.
Tom Kirkpatrick, Haleyville, Ala. R. 3.
J. W. Parker, Haleyville, Ala. R. 3.
W. W. Morris, Haleyville, Ala. R. 3.

2403
192
480
288
292
24
267

(FRIENDSHIP)

Rev. J. P. Box, Addison, Ala. R. 1.

(Deacons)

R. B. Brown, Addison, Ala. R. 1.

(LEONARDS CHAPEL)

Rev. C. E. Harbin, Address unknown.

(Deacons)

V. A. Leonard, Carbon Hill, Ala. R. 2.

(POPLAR SPRINGS)

Rev. Name unknown.

(Deacon)

Lee Spain, Double Springs, Ala. R. 3.

DECEASED MINISTERS AND MEMBERS

We beg leave to report we find two deaths in our association. Bro. Jack Nails, Bro. John Kelley. Ages unknown.

ALBERT SMITH, Chairman.

(FINANCE)

We, your committee, beg leave to report we find in treasury, \$20.03; Printing of Minutes, \$14.00; Associational expense, \$10.00.

W. H. PEARCE, Chairman.

Adjournment for preaching at 11 o'clock.

(NOON)

Singing by the class and prayer by G. R. Porter.

The Moderator called the house to order.

NEW BUSINESS

First. Called for report of each minister and they were handed in, read and received. Motioned and carried to drop Bro. J. M. Kelsey and G. W. Turner names from our minutes.

Second. Motioned and carried that Rev. Ira D. Garrison write Bro. C. E. Harbin's credentials for him.

Third. Evangelist. None.

Fourth. The Ordination Council was called to do some ordaining. The Presbytery was as follows: Rev. C. C. Kimbrough, Rev. Z. A. Frost, Rev. O. G. Lane, with other ministers and deacons.

Fifth. L. Q. White and M. V. Collins were ordained for deacons.

Sixth. Called for a home for the Association. The next session of this Association will meet with New Prospect Church, out east of Lynn, Ala., in Winston County, Alabama, and Bro. John Miller to preach the introductory sermon.

Seventh. Received a motion in order. A motion of thanks was extended to Union Hill 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.

DEVOTION

Introductory Sermon preached by Rev. C. C. Kimbrough, text: Isa. 1st chapter.

Friday night, Devotional Service by Bro. Lonnie Kimbrough. Prayer by Bro. Roe Hood. Preaching by Rev. John Miller, text: John 10-1-5.

Saturday at 11 o'clock, Preaching by Rev. Z. A. Frost, followed by Rev. C. E. Harbin, text: Second John 1-8.

Saturday night, Preaching by Rev. J. H. Holmes, text: First Cor. 13. Chapter of John.

Devotional Service Sunday at 11 o'clock, held by Bro. Arnold Jackson.

Prayer by Rev. Wince Crumpton and Bro. H. H. Terril.

Preaching by Rev. C. C. Kimbrough.

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 "For-sake 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-third 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 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 members of this 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 someone 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 discussions are going on.

10. That 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

X 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.

X 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; 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. PERSEVERANCE—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 Saviour 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 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 contributions for church expenses.
7. Call for acknowledgments.
8. Call for new miscellaneous business.
9. Motion for adjournment.

RULES FOR TAKING MEMBERS INTO THE CHURCH

- Q. You found yourself a sinner in the sight of God?
 A. I did.
- Q. And you feel that God for Christ's sake has forgiven you for all of your sin?
 A. I do.
- Q. And now you want to become a member of this Free Will Baptist Church at this place?
 A. I do.
- Q. Are you willing to abide by the rules of this church?
 A. I am.
- Q. Are you willing to support the church in its finances as God prospers you?
 A. I am.
- Q. Do you believe the whole Bible and will you take it for your guide and live according to its teaching?
 A. I will.
- Q. Do you believe in free and open communion? Let a man examine himself according to 1st Cor. 11-28. Also in washing the Saints' feet according to St. John, 13th chapter?
 A. I do.
- Q. Do you believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and do accept Him as your personal Savior?
 A. I do.

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 preserve 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 one.
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 the 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.

CHURCHES	Counties	PASTORS	CLERKS	Received by Baptism	Received by Letter	Received by Restoration	Received by Recommendation	Dismissed by Letter	Died	Names Dropped	Minutes and Association Funds	Total Membership	Excluded	Days of Meeting
Blue Springs	Franklin	Ira D. Garrison	W. S. Taylor, Phil Campbell, Ala. R. 1					12			\$1.25			
Union Grove	Winston	Ira D. Garrison	Joe Williams, Double Springs, Ala.					2			\$2.33	31		3rd Sun.
Mt. Moriah			Not Represented											
New Prospect	Winston	John Miller	J. A. Estell, Delmar, Ala. R. 1						2		\$3.35	45		2nd Sun.
Oak Grove	Franklin	C. C. Kimbrough	C. A. Porter, Phil Campbell, Ala. R. 1	15			3				\$4.52	164		4th Sun.
Delmar	Winston	Ira D. Garrison	Myrtle Rowell, Delmar, Ala.	2				7			\$2.25	29		4th Sun.
Edger Grove			Not Represented											
Union Hill	Winston	C. C. Kimbrough	H. S. Spain, Haleyville, Ala. R. 3	14	8			2			\$3.85	96		1-3 Sun.
Old Poplar	Winston	Ira D. Garrison	Pearlie Spain, Double Springs, Ala. R. 2	4			2				\$.58	10		2nd Sun.
Friendship	Winston	John Miller	Marylee White, Addison, Ala.	10							\$1.90	27		
Leonard Chapel		Chester Harben	Louis Leonar, Nauvoo, Ala. R. 4	11	5						\$.25	27	4	

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