

MINUTES
of the
First Session of the
Birmingham District Association

of the
UNITED FREE-WILL BAPTIST CHURCH
OF CHRIST

Held With
Shiloh Church, near Gardendale, Ala.

October 14th and 15th, 1939.



OFFICERS

ELDER LEE HANKS, Moderator
BROTHER PAUL CLICK, Assistant Moderator
BROTHER JOE CLICK, Jr., Clerk and Treasurer

The next session of the Association will be held at Shady Grove Free-Will Baptist Church near Adamsville, Ala., beginning Thursday night before the third Sunday in October 1940.

SHILOH FREE-WILL BAPTIST CHURCH

Gardendale, Ala., October 14, 1939

After a song by the choir the body was called to order by Rev. Douglas Harris.

Morning devotional service was conducted by Elder Lee Hanks. Scripture lesson 133rd Psalm, which after a short talk was given all went to prayer.

The delegates from the following churches were called upon to state their reasons as to why they desired to organize an Association in the Birmingham district: Shady Grove responded by Paul Click; Meadows Chapel responded by Rufus Franklin; Oak Grove responded by Edgar Buckelew; Shiloh responded by Rev. Douglas Harris; Union Church responded by Rev. Noah Holley; Pleasant Hill responded by Therman Robinson.

The right hand of fellowship was then taken. After which the Oak Grove quartett rendered two special songs. The officers were then elected as follows: Elder Lee Hanks, Moderator; Bro. Paul Click, Assistant Moderator; Bro. Joe Click, Jr., Clerk and Treasurer. After the election of the officers a reading committee was appointed and the church letters were called for. The letters were read and adopted then the delegates were seated as stated below. Oak Grove, Bro. Edgar Buckelew, Sister Hettie Jones, Sister Flora Long; Union Church, Bro. Razzie Sanders, Bro. Noah Holley, Sister Idella Holley; Shiloh, Bro. Bill Farley, Bro. Douglas Harris, Bro. Frank Hays; Pleasant Hill, Bro. Therman Robinson, Bro. Lee Brown; Shady Grove, Bro. Paul Click, Sister Ella Story, Bro. Joe Click, Jr.; Meadows Chapel, Bro. Rufus Franklin, Bro. Will Minyard.

The Moderator then appointed the following committees: Business Committee: Bro. Lawrence Hogan, Bro. Rufus Franklin, Bro. Ocie Morgan, Rev. Lee Hanks and Bro. Edgar Buckelew; Ordaining Council: Bro. Charlie Franklin, Bro. Lawrence Hogan, Bro. Ocie Morgan, Rev. Lee Hanks, and Bro. Edgar Buckelew; Executive Committee: Bro. Lee Roy Smith, Bro. Razzie Sanders, Bro. Edgar Buckelew, Bro. Charlie Franklin, and Bro. Paul Click; Temperance Committee: Sister Hettie Jones, Sister Flora Long, Sister Harding and Rev. Douglas Harris; Resolution Committee: Bro. E. T. Blizzard, Bro. Lawrence Hogan and Bro. Charlie Franklin; Deceased Committee: Bro. Lee Roy Smith, Bro. Lee Brown and Bro. Therman Robinson.

After the appointing of the committees the eleven o'clock message was rendered by Rev. Hence Davenport and Rev. Morgan which was well delivered and was enjoyed by all. After which the body adjourned until one thirty o'clock for refreshments.

PROCEEDINGS

After singing by the choir the body was called to order by the Moderator. Prayer by Rev. Harry L. Mitchell. The Moderator then called for the reports of the committees which was as follows:

STANDING OF THE MINISTRY:

This being the beginning of a new Association there was not a committee appointed on the Standing of the Ministry, although the churches requested that a certificate of standing be granted to all ministers. Which was approved by the body.

BUSINESS COMMITTEE:

We, your Business Committee, have read all letters and found them in due form. We recommend this body to grant Rev. Noah Holley license to preach the gospel for one year. We also recommend Bro. Razzie Sanders to be ordained as deacon. We also recommend Bro. Douglas Harris to be ordained to preach the gospel. We also recommend Rev. Harry L. Mitchell to be ordained to preach the gospel.

RUFUS FRANKLIN, Chairman.

ORDAINING COUNCIL:

We, your Ordaining Council, have examined by the request of the churches from which they came the following: Rev. Douglas Harris, Rev. Harry L. Mitchell, Rev. Noah Holley and Bro. Razzie Sanders. We wish to state that we have found them worthy.

CHARLIE FRANKLIN, Chairman.

TEMPERANCE:

We, your Temperance Committee, submit the following: The Bible says "Be ye temperate in all things." The greatest need of temperance today is in our speech. We should be very temperate indeed, as well, that our life bring no reproach on the church and the cause of Christ.

REV. DOUGLAS HARRIS, Chairman.

DECEASED MEMBERS:

We, your Committee on Deceased Members, submit the following report: Since our last session God in his wisdom has seen fit to call from our midst, Sister Mollie Eaton, Sister Cleo Meeks and Sister Minnie Hewitt, members of Shady Grove Free-Will Baptist Church. It is sad to give up those we love so dearly but God's will must be done, and we bow in humble submission. We extend to the bereaved our heartfelt sympathy, commending them to the tender mercies and loving kindness of God.

LEE ROY SMITH, Chairman.

RESOLUTION COMMITTEE:

We, Your Resolution Committee, submit the following: Be it resolved that we tender to almighty God our thanks for his presence in our midst during this session. Be it resolved that we do more in the future for the upbuilding of God's Kingdom than we have in the past.

E. T. BLIZZARD, Chairman.

The body then discussed the holding of the next Annual Association which will be held at Shady Grove Free-Will Baptist Church near Adamsville, Ala. on Thursday night before the third Sunday in October 1940. the body adjourned until seven o'clock.

PROCEEDINGS

Devotional was conducted by Rev. Douglas Harris with all Christians taking part. Which was followed by preaching by Rev. Harry L. Mitchell. Scripture Lesson was read from twenty-fourth and twenty-sixth Psalms. After which communion was held followed by feet washing. The body then adjourned until Thursday night before the third Sunday in October 1940, which will be held at Shady Grove Free-Will Baptist Church, Adamsville, Ala.

RULES OF DECORUM

1. After an introductory sermon is preached the Association shall be called together by the Moderator who presided at the last session. In case of his absence the Assistant Moderator shall call the body together. The former Clerk also officiating until organized.

2. The Association when assembled shall be composed of all the ministers and ordained deacons and delegates, chosen by the different churches comprising the body.

3. The officers of the Association shall consist of a Moderator, Assistant Moderator and a Clerk, to be chosen from the members present.

4. It shall be the duty of the Moderator to preside over the body during the session at which he is elected, to call the next session to order and preside until reorganization is effected by the election and installation of his successor. It shall be his duty to keep order, enforce the rules of Decorum, decide all questions, discipline and in case of a tie vote to cast the deciding ballot. He may speak on any subject but must call on the Assistant Moderator to preside while he is speaking.

5. It shall be the duty of the clerk to keep a minute of the proceedings and to read the same when called upon by the body. And shall prepare the minutes for publication.

6. Each church is entitled to three delegates.

7. A majority of the members shall rule in all cases, except the admission of churches then the vote must be unanimous.

8. No member shall absent himself from the house without leave from the Moderator.

9. All business shall be brought before the body by motion and second and be disposed of by the same.

10. No person shall be allowed to speak more than twice on the same subject, nor more than 10 minutes each time without permission from the Moderator.

11. No brother shall be interrupted while speaking unless he departs from the subject under discussion or uses words of personal reflections.

12. Only one person shall be allowed to speak at a time, and he must rise and address the Moderator.

13. That no business be voted on with less than two-thirds of the body present.

14. This Decorum may be altered, amended or abridged at any session of the Association by a majority of the number present.

CHURCH COVENANT

Having given ourselves to God by faith in Christ and adjoining the word of God as our rule and faith and practice, we now give ourselves to one another by the will of God in this solemn covenant. We will not forget the assembling of ourselves together for church conference.

We agree to accept Christian admonition and reproof with meekness and watch over one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the spirit in the bonds of peace, to strengthen the weak and admonish the erring. We every one hold Christian principle sacred.

ARTICLES OF FAITH

1. The Bible—The scripture of the Old and New Testaments were given by inspiration of God and our infallible rule of faith and practice.

2. God—There is one living and true God, revealed in Nature as the creator, preserver and righteous governor of universe, and in the scriptures as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, yet one God infinitely wise and good, whom all intelligent creatures are to supremely love, adore and obey.

3. Christ—Christ is manifest in flesh; in His divine Nature truly God, in His human Nature truly man. The mediator between God and man; once crucified, He is risen and glorified and is an ever-present Savior and Lord.

4. The Holy Spirit—The scriptures assign to the Holy Spirit all attributes of God. He is the Reprover, Comforter, Guide and Sanctifier of men.

5. The Government of God—God exercises a wise and benevolent providence over all beings and all things by maintaining the constitution and laws of Nature. He also performs special acts of grace, not otherwise provided for, as the highest welfare of man may require.

6. The Sinfulness of Man—Man was created innocent, but by disobedience fell into a state of sin and condemnation. His posterity, therefore, inherits a fallen Nature of such tendencies that all who come to the years of accountability sin and become guilty before God.

7. The Work of Christ—The Son of God by His incarnation, life, suffering, death and resurrection effected for all a redemption from sin that is full and free and is the ground for salvation by faith.

8. The Terms of Salvation—The conditions of salvation are: First, repentance or sincere sorrow for sin and hearty renunciation of it. Second, faith or the unreserved committal of one's self to Christ as Savior and Lord with purpose to love and obey Him in all things. In the exercise of savings faith, the soul, renewed by the Holy Spirit, freed from the dominion of sin, becomes a child of God. Third, continuance in faith and obedience until death.

9. Election—God determined from the beginning to save all who should comply with the conditions of salvation. Hence, by faith in Christ, men become His elect.

10. Freedom of the Will—The human will is free and self-controlled, having power to yield to the influence of the truth and the spirit and live, or to resist them and perish.

11. Salvation Free—God desires the salvation of all, the Gospel invites all, the Holy Spirit strives with all, and whosoever will may come and take the water of life freely.

12. Perseverance—All believers in Christ, who through grace persevere in holiness to the end of life, have the promise of eternal salvation.

13. Gospel Ordinances—Baptism, or the immersion or believers in water, feet washing and the Lord's Supper are ordinances to be perpetuated under the gospel of universal obligation, and to be administered to all true believers.

14. The Christian Sabbath—The divine law requires that one day in seven be set apart from secular employment and amusement, for rest, worship, holy works and activities, and for personal communion with God.

15. Resurrection, Judgment and Final Retribution—The scriptures teach the resurrection of all men at the last day. They that have done good will come forth to the resurrection of life and they that have done ill unto the resurrection of judgment; then the wicked will go into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.—John 5:29, revised version; Matt. 25:46.

VALUATION OF CHURCH PROPERTY

Meadows Chapel, Blossburg, Ala.	\$300.00
Union Church, Empire, Ala., R. 1	300.00
Shiloh Church, Gardendale, Ala.	500.00
Oak Grove, Mineral Spring, Ala.	275.00
Shady Grove, Adamsville, Ala., R. 2	700.00
Pleasant Hill, Jasper, Ala., R. 1—Building not completed.	

MINISTERS ROLL

Rev. Harry L. Mitchell	1720 8th Avenue, North, Birmingham, Ala.
Rev. Douglas Harris	Route 7, Birmingham, Ala.
Rev. Lee Hanks	Adamsville, Ala.
Rev. William Farley	Route 7, Birmingham, Ala.
Rev. Noha Holley	Route 1, Empire, Ala.

Churches	Clerks and Addresses	Pastors	Received by Letter	Received by Baptism	Dismissed	Excluded	Died	Members
Meadows Chapel.....	Will Minyard..... Blossburg, Ala.	Douglas Harris.....	0	0	0	0	0	65
Shady Grove.....	Mrs. Joe Click, Jr..... Adamsville, Ala.	Rev. Harry L. Mitchell	0	0	0	0	3	67
Pleasant Hill.....	Thearston Robinson..... Jasper, Ala., R. 1	Rev. Lee Hanks.....	9	12	0	0	0	21
Union.....	Idella Holley..... Empire, Ala.	Rev. Lee Hanks.....	15	4	0	0	0	19
Shiloh.....	C. L. Harris..... Route 7, B, 258 Birmingham, Ala.	Rev. Douglas Harris.....	25	11	2	0	0	44
Oak Grove.....	Flora Long..... Route 7, B. 343 Birmingham, Ala.	Rev. John Allen.....	4	0	0	0	0	11

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