

MINUTES
OF THE
SECOND ANNUAL SESSION
OF THE
Birmingham District Association
OF THE
UNITED FREE WILL BAPTIST
CHURCH OF CHRIST

HELD WITH
Shady Grove Free Will Baptist Church, near
Adamsville, Alabama, October 17 and 18, 1940.

OFFICERS

Moderator Eld. Douglas Harris
Assistant Moderator Eld. Lee Hanks
Clerk and Treasurer Brittie Hanks

The next setting of this Association will be held
at Pleasant Hill Free Will Baptist Church, Jasper,
Alabama, Route 1, beginning Thursday night before
the third Sunday in September, 1941.

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PROCEEDINGS

Proceedings of the second annual session of the Birmingham District Association convened with Shady Grove Church of Adamsville, Alabama.

FRIDAY MORNING SESSION

Opened by singing "Standing on the Promises" and "He Loves Me."

Prayer by Elder Douglas Harris.

Devotional conducted by Elder Lee Hanks, reading Romans 12:1-12.

House called to order for business.

Call for fellowship of conference, singing "Leaning on the Everlasting Arms."

Invited visiting brothers and sisters to seats with us.

The body went into the election of officers. The following were elected:

Moderator	Eld. Douglas Harris
Assistant Moderator	Eld. Lee Hanks
Clerk and Treasurer	Brittie Hanks

Letters of the churches called for. The following reported: Shady Grove, Adamsville, Ala.; Meadows Chapel, Blossburg, Ala.; Shiloh, Birmingham, Ala., Route 7; Pleasant Hill, Jasper, Ala., Route 1; Union, Empire, Ala., Route 1.

Reading Committee appointed as follows: Sisters Lula Rice and Lela Murphy.

The church letters were read, adopted, and the following delegates seated:

Meadows Chapel — Sister Fannie Franklin, Sister Lela Murphy and Bro. Will Minyard.

Pleasant Hill — Sister Suda Aaron, Sister Lula Rice and Bro. William South.

Shady Grove — Brothers Ira Meek, H. G. Hicks and Sisters Vera Click and Effie Buckhanon.

Shiloh — Sisters Rhoda Smith, Aslie Hogan and Rosia Prestage.

Union — Brothers Noah Holly and Razzy Sanders and Idella Holly.

Moderator extended a welcome to visiting brothers and sisters as follows: Bro. and Sister A. M. Roberts

and Bro. and Sister L. W. Williams from Liberty Association.

Devotional committee appointed as follows: Bro. Charlie Franklin, Bro. Paul Click and Bro. William South. Session adjourned for eleven o'clock message.

FRIDAY ELEVEN O'CLOCK SERVICE

Sermon by Eld. Douglas Harris, Scripture reading 1 Cor. 1:1-11, which was enjoyed by all.

Adjourned for lunch which was served on the church grounds.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

Called in conference by Elder Douglas Harris. Scripture reading 1 Thes. 5:15-25.

Appointment of Committees

Business—Bro. Charlie Franklin, Bro. Paul Click and Bro. William South.

Temperance—Sister Fannie Franklin, Sister Lela Murphy and Sisters Sudie Aaron.

Deceased Members—Sister Lula Rice, Sister Aslie Hogan and Sister Rosie Prestage.

Standing of the Ministry—Bro. E. T. Blizzard, Bro. Charlie Franklin and Bro. Paul Click.

Auditing Committee—Sister Lela Murphy, Sister Fannie Franklin and Sister Sudie Aaron.

Ordaining Council—Elder. Douglas Harris, Eld. Lee Hanks and Bro. E. T. Blizzard.

While the committees were out, the body discussed Articles of Faith and Church Covenant.

FRIDAY NIGHT SERVICE

Devotional conducted by Eld. Douglas Harris; all Christians taking part.

Preaching service by Elder Lee Hanks, reading Acts 9:1-6, using for text "Who art thou Lord?"

SATURDAY MORNING SESSION

Moderator called the house to order.

Eld. Lee Hanks read Psalms 133.

Called for reports Devotional Committee and Temperance Committee responded.

Adjourned for preaching.

SATURDAY ELEVEN O'CLOCK SERVICE

Eld. Douglas Harris brought the message, reading Matthew 5:13-14 and Geneses 1:1-4.

Lunch served on church grounds.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

Choir singing led by Eld. Douglas Harris.

House called to order for business.

Devotional service conducted by Bro. A. M. Roberts, reading St. John 15:12-17; all christians taking part.

Moderator, taking charge, called for the other committee reports.

By motion the house voted to send delegates to State Association. Eld. Douglas Harris, Eld. Lee Hanks and Bro. Charlie Franklin were elected to represent the Birmingham District Association.

After all committees had reported, they were discharged.

The house voted to meet with the Meadows Chapel church at Blossburg, Alabama, on Saturday night before the fifth Sunday in December.

Conference adjourned until Thursday night before third Sunday in September, 1941.

SATURDAY NIGHT SERVICE

Song service conducted by Eld. Douglas Harris.

Bro. L. W. Williams conducted the devotional service, with a large number of Christians taking part.

Preaching by Eld. Lee Hanks, which was followed by Communion and feet washing service; a large number taking part.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

TEMPERANCE—We, your Committee on Temperance, submit the following:

"Be ye temperate in all things."

The greatest need of temperance today is in speech. We should be very temperate in deed, as well, that our life bring no reproach on the church, and the cause of Christ.

Sister Fannie Franklin, Chairman.

BUSINESS — We, your Business Committee, wish to submit the following report:

We find a request in Shady Grove church letter to examine Bro. H. G. Hicks and, if found worthy, ordain him for deacon.

We also find a request from Pleasant Hill church that the next sitting of this body be held at their church.

We suggest that all deacons, of this Association, be granted ordination papers.

Respectfully Submitted,
C. R. Franklin, 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 the following:

Sister Edna Franklin and Bro. John Thomas McDonald, members of Meadows Chapel Free Will Baptist Church; and Sister Nolie Pentieze, member of Union Free Will Baptist Church.

It is sad to give up those whom we love so dearly, but God's will must be done. We extend the bereaved ones our "heart-felt" sympathy, commending them to the tender mercies and loving kindness of God.

Sister Lula Rice, Chairman.

RESOLUTION — We, your Resolution Committee, wish to make the following report:

1. We Resolve, That this body adopt the rule of seating the second highest candidate as Assistant Moderator, and the highest as Moderator.

2. We Resolve, That this body live up to the rules of the Treatise in receiving ministers into our Association.

Bro. E. T. Blizzard, Chairman.

AUDITING — We, your Auditing Committee, wish to report that all papers are in order.

Sister Lela Murphny, Chairman.

STANDING OF MINISTRY — We, your Committee on the Ministry, wish to make the following report:

We recommend that Elder Douglas Harris, Elder John Murry

and Elder Lee Hanks be granted a certificate of standing for one year.

We recommend that the following names be dropped from the ministerial roll: Elder Noah Holley, Elder William Farley and Elder Harry L. Michel.

Also, we request this body to grant Elder J. W. Murray a certificate of license to preach the Gospel.

Charlie Franklin, Chairman.

ORDAINING COUNCIL — We, your ordaining Council, wish to make the following report:

The candidate for ordination being absent, we wish to defer the case until a later date.

Respectfully Submitted,
Elder Lee Hanks, Chairman.

MINISTERS' REPORTS

ELDER DOUGLAS HARRIS — No. of churches pastored, 2; No. of sermons preached, 103; No. baptized, none; No. of marriages, 1; No. of funerals conducted, 1; No. of revivals assisted in, 9; No. of miles traveled, 2,745; Amount of offering received, \$28.00; Expense of work, \$14.55.

ELDER LEE HANKS — No. of churches pastored, 3; No. of sermons preached, 196; No. baptized, 14; No. of funerals conducted, 6; No. of revivals assisted in, 10; No. of marriages, 3; Amount of offering received, \$201.24; Expense of ministerial work, \$190.74; No. of miles traveled, 11,439.

MINUTE FUND

Meadows Chapel	\$5.00
Shady Grove	3.00
Shiloh	3.20
Union	1.31
Pleasant Hill	5.00
Total	\$20.26

CLERK'S REPORT

RECEIPTS:

Amount in treasury at last Association .. \$22.52
 Given by Joe Click59
 Total \$23.11

DISBURSEMENTS:

Minutes Cost \$18.36
 Ordination Papers 2.00
 Total Expenses \$20.36

Balance in Treasury \$ 2.75

LETTER TO ANNUAL CONFERENCE

To the session of the Birmingham District Association when convened with Free Will Baptist Church at 19....

We send as delegates our beloved brethern whom we pray you to receive to sit with you in your Godly deliberations.

State of religion; Members received this year; baptized; Dismissed; Deaths; Total membership; Condition of prayer meeting; Condition of Sunday School; Number of officers; Average number of pupils; Number of teachers; Paid pastor \$.....; Paid Evangelist \$.....; Building and repairs \$.....; Inclosed for minutes \$.....

Pastor's name and address:

Names and addresses of ministers belonging to our church:

Done by order of Church assembled in conference this day of 19....

....., Moderator

....., Clerk

Remarks:

STATISTICS

Number Members	68
Members Died	27
Members Dismissed	19
Members Received by Baptism	42
Members Received by Letter	14
Pastor and Address	Douglas Harris, Birmingham, Ala.
Clerk and Address	Will Minyard, Blossburg, Ala.
CHURCH	Mrs. Joe Click Jr., Adamsville
	Lee Brown, R.1, Jasper, Ala.
	Idella Holley, R.1, Empire, Ala.
	C. L. Harris, Birmingham, Ala.
	Shiloh

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 erreing. We, everyone, hold Christian principles sacred.

FREE WILL BAPTIST ARTICLES OF FAITH

1. THE BIBLE.—The Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments were given by inspiration of God, and are our infallible rule of faith and practice.

2 Timothy 3:16

2. GOD.—There is one living and true God, revealed in nature as the Creator, Preserver, and Righteous Governor of the universe, and in the Scriptures as the Father, Son and Holy Ghost, yet as one God, infinitely wise and good, whom all intelligent creatures are supremely to love, adore and obey.

1 Cor. 8:6; Matt. 28:19.

3. CHRIST.—Christ is God manifest in the flesh; in His divine nature truly God, in His human nature truly man. The mediator between God and man, once crucified, He is now risen and glorified and is our ever present Savior and Lord.

St. John 1:1-12.

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

St. John 16:7-8; Acts 2:4; Eph. 4:46

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 requires.

Psalms 22:28; 97:2.

6. THE SINFULNESS OF MAN.—Man was created innocent, but by disobedience fell into a state of sin and condemnation. His posterity, therefore, inherited a fallen nature of such tendencies that all who come to years of accountability sin, and become guilty before God.

Gen. 2:17; 3:19.

7. THE WORK OF CHRIST.—The Son of God, by His incarnation, life, sufferings, death and resurrection affected for all a redemption from sin that is full and free and is the ground of salvation by faith.

1 John 2:2.

8. THE TERMS OF SALVATION.—The conditions of salvation are: 1. Repentance or sincere sorrow for sin and the hearty renunciation of it. 2. 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 saving faith the soul is renewed by the Holy Spirit, freed from the dominion of sin and becomes a child of God. 3. Continuance in faith and obedience until death.

2 Cor. 7:10; Prov. 28:13.

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.

1 Tim. 2:4.

10. FREEDOM OF 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.

Joshua 24:15.

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 of the water of Life freely.

Rev. 22:17.

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

St. John 15:6; 2 Peter 2:20-22.

13. GOSPEL ORDINANCES.—*Baptism*, or the immersion of believers in water, and the *Lord's Supper*, are ordinances to be perpetuated under the Gospel: *Feet Washing*, an ordinance teaching humility, of universal obligation, and to be administered to all true believers.

Mark 16:15; 2 Cor. 4:5; St. John 13:14.

14. THE CHRISTIAN SABBATH. The divine law requires that one day in seven be set apart from secular employments and amusements, for rest, worship, holy works, and activities, and for personal communion with God.

Gen. 2:3; Exod. 20:8-11.

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 evil unto the resurrection of damnation; then the wicked shall "go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

John 5:29; Matt. 25:46.