

The
Birmingham District Association
of

**UNITED FREE WILL BAPTIST
CHURCH OF CHRIST**

1941

**Proceedings of the
3rd Annual Session**

Convened at
Pleasant Hill Church
Jasper, Alabama, Route 1

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

HELD WITH
Pleasant Hill Free Will Baptist Church, Jasper,
Alabama, Route 1, September 12 and 13, 1941.

OFFICERS
Moderator, Eld. Douglas Harris, Birmingham, Ala.
Ass't. Mod., Eld. Lee Hanks, Adamsville, Ala.
Clerk-Treas., Brittie Hanks, Adamsville, Ala.

The next setting of this Association will be held
at Union Free Will Baptist Church, near Linns Park
in Argo Settlement, beginning Friday night before
the first Monday in September, 1942.

PROCEEDINGS

FRIDAY MORNING SESSION

Proceedings of the Third Annual Session of the Birmingham District Association convened with Pleasant Hill Church, near Jasper, Alabama, Route 1.

Opened by singing "Holy Manna".

Prayer by Eld. W. R. Parker.

Moderator taking charge, reading 1 Cor. 1:1-10.

Test fellowship of conference, reading new rule passed at last session, inviting 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-Treasurer, Brittie Hanks.

Called for church letters: Shilo, Birmingham, Ala.; Meadows Chapel, Blossburg, Ala.; Pleasant Hill, Jasper, Ala.; Union, Cordova, Alabama.

Reading Committee was appointed as follows: Bro. Lee M. Brown and Sister Lula Rice.

The church letters were read and adopted. The following delegates were seated:

Pleasant Hill — Bro. Thomas Key, Bro. Lee M. Brown, Sister Lula Rice.

Union — Sister P. Z. Banks, Sister Maggie Sanders.

Shady Grove — Eld. W. R. Parker.

Meadows Chapel — Sister Jane Harden, Sister Fannie Franklin, Bro. Charlie Franklin.

Shilo — By letter.

Appointment of committees as follows:

Devotional — Bro. William South, Bro. W. C. Bailey, Sister Maggie Sanders, Sister P. Z. Banks.

Temperance — Eld. W. R. Parker, Bro. Lee M. Brown, Bro. Thomas Key.

Business — Sister Lula Rice, Bro. William South, Eld. Lee Hanks.

Deceased Members — Sister Fannie Franklin, Sister Jane Harden, Sister P. Z. Banks.

Executive and Standing of Ministry — Bro. Charlie Franklin, Bro. William South, Bro. Lee M. Brown.

Auditing — Eld. W. R. Parker, Bro. W. C. Bailey,

Bro. Charlie Franklin.

Ordaining Council — Eld. Lee Hanks, Eld. Ocie Morgan, Eld. Hence Davenport, Bro. Charlie Franklin, Bro. William South.

FRIDAY ELEVEN O'CLOCK SERVICE

Sermon by Bro. J. F. Thompson; text, Eph. 4:13-23. The service was enjoyed by all, much shouting and rejoicing.

Adjourned for lunch which was served on church grounds.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

Called back in session by singing "Some Day".

Prayer by Bro. Hence Davenport.

While the committees were out Eld. Douglas Harris read Shilo League letter. It was moved and carried that the letter be printed in the minutes. Also read and discussed Church Covenant and Articles of Faith.

Eld. Lee Hanks offered to give property for the building of an orphans home. Plans were made to raise money for the building of the home which is to be started as soon as possible.

Each churches' delegates voted to help raise funds for the home by electing a treasurer to care for funds collected, and sending it in to the Association clerk until the proper officers have been elected.

We want each Association to have a part in this great work, so we are trying to contact them as soon as possible. The clerk was requested to keep a separate record of all funds paid in by each church.

FRIDAY NIGHT SERVICE

Bro. Ocie Morgan conducted the devotional service, all Christians taking part.

Bro. Hence Davenport brought the message.

SATURDAY MORNING SESSION

Opened services by singing "The Old Account Was Settled Long Ago".

Prayer by Bro. Hence Davenport.

Scripture read by Douglas Harris, Matt. 27:21.

Discussed sending out an Association Evangelist.

Voted to send out an association evangelist. Voted to send Eld. Lee Hanks. Also voted to send all evangelist funds to Association clerk.

SATURDAY ELEVEN O'CLOCK SERVICE

Eld. W. R. Parker brought the message, reading 1 Cor. 12:27. The message was enjoyed by all.

Then again we enjoyed a nice lunch on the church grounds.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

House was called back in session, singing "Where We Will Never Grow Old".

Eld. Lee Hanks read Psalms 133.

Reports of all committees were read and disposed of in the accepted form. All committees were discharged except the Standing Committee.

Voted to send delegates to Flint River Association, electing Eld. Lee Hanks, Eld. Douglas Harris, Bro. Charlie Franklin.

The Association voted to meet with Union Church for next session.

Adjourned until Friday night before the first Monday in September, 1942.

SATURDAY NIGHT SERVICE

Eld. Douglas Harris brought the message; scripture, Isaiah 3:1-7 and Gen. 3:4.

After a good message Eld. Lee Hanks took charge serving the Lord's supper, followed by feet washing. Several took part in the service.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

Be temperate in all things. First, add to your faith, temperance. Be not drunken with wine wherein is excess, but be filled with the Spirit.

— Eld. W. R. Parker, Chairman.

AUDITING — We, your Auditing Committee, find all books are in order.

— Eld. W. R. Parker, Chairman.

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

1. We find in the letter from Union Church a request to examine Bro. J. M. Holley and, if found worthy, exchange papers with him.
2. Also find in same letter request for questioning of Bro. Noah Holley and, if found worthy, that he be ordained to preach the gospel.
3. We recommend that all our ministers and deacons be granted certificate of standing.
4. We recommend that Bro. J. M. Holley and Bro. Noah Holley be granted license.
5. We recommend that all pastors encourage the organizing of young people's meetings in the churches.
6. We also recommend that this body elect a young man for the organizing of a young people's meeting in all of our churches.
7. We find that Shilo and Union both have ask for the next session of this Association.
8. We find that the Shilo church recommends that Bro. Leroy Smith be examined and if found worthy be given license to preach the gospel.
9. We also recommend that Bro. W. R. Parker be examined and if found worthy that we exchange papers with him.

ORDAINING COUNCIL—We wish to make the following report:

We have examined Brothers J. M. Holley, W. R. Parker, and Noah Holley, and we find them to be firm in the faith.

We recommend that Bro. Noah Holley be ordained; also that we exchange papers with Brothers J. M. Holley and W. R. Parker.

DECEASED MEMBERS—We, your Committee on Deceased Members, wish to report that since we last met two of our sisters from Shady Grove church have passed away, leaving the homes sad, but with a hope of being reunited on that resurrection morning. Sister Liltie Caldwell and Sister Hurdeline Click, who left a wonderful testimony for her love ones of Jesus and that heavenly home. Pleasant Hill has lost one sister, Idella Godfrey who leaves a husband and two children to mourn her death.

— Sister Fannie Franklin.

MINISTERS' REPORTS

ELDER LEE HANKS—Number Churches Pastored, 3; Number Sermons Preached, 131; Number Baptized, 9; Number Funerals Conducted, 3; Number Revivals Assisted in, 5; Number Marriages Performed, 2; Number Miles Traveled, 3198; Amount of Offerings Received, \$162.25; Expense of Ministerial Work, \$54.99.

ELDER W. R. PARKER—No. Churches Pastored, 1; No. Sermons Preached, 134; No. Miles Traveled, 550; Amount of Offerings Received, \$27.90.

ELDER DOUGLAS HARRIS—No. Churches Pastored, none; No. Sermons Preached, 67; No. Baptized, none; No. Marriages Performed, none; No. Miles Traveled, 1728; Amount of Offerings Received, 7.63; Expense of Ministerial Work, \$11.63.

Elders Noah Holley, J. M. Holley, and J. M. Murry gave verbal reports.

MINISTERS' ROLL

Ordained

Eld. Lee Hanks	Adamsville, Ala.
" Douglas Harris	Route 7, Birmingham, Ala.
" W. R. Parker	Adamsville, Ala.
" Noah Holley	Route 1, Empire, Ala.
" J. M. Holley	Route 2, Cordova, Ala.
" J. W. Murry	Route 1, Jasper, Ala.

Licentiates

Eld. Leroy Smith	Route 7, Birmingham, Ala.
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Visiting Ministers

Rev. Hence Davenport,	Rev. O. C. Morgan,
Rev. Henry Marton,	Rev. Robert Moncrief,
Rev. J. F. Thompson,	Rev. I. J. Akins.

YOUNG PEOPLES' ENDEAVOR OF SHILOH CHURCH

We wish to make the following report:

League organized, January 26, 1941, with Mrs. J. E. Smith and Mrs. Lydia Hogan as leaders. Average number of pupils, 18; teachers, 2. Money raised for building and repair, \$24.90; for literature, \$2.00. Amount enclosed for minutes, \$2.00.

We wish that all Free Will Baptist churches would organize a Free Will Baptist League.

Marie Bennett, Secretary,
Route 7, Box 267, Birmingham, Alabama.

CLERK'S REPORT

Receipts:

Amount in treasury from last Association	\$ 2.17
Collected for Minutes	22.00
Collected for Home Mission Fund	2.10
Free Will Offering	7.23
Total	\$33.50

Disbursements:

500 Church Letter Forms and 500 Deacon's Certificates	\$ 7.14
200 Ministers Certificates	2.55
Minutes for last year	18.29
Total	\$27.98

Brittle Hanks, Clerk,
Route 1, Box 194, Adamsville, Alabama.

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.

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.

STATISTICAL TABLE — 1941

CHURCH	Church Clerk	Pastors and Addresses
Meadows Chapel	Will Minyard, Blossburg, Ala.	Hence Davenport, Cullman,
Shady Grove	Mrs. Joe Click Jr, Adamsville	W. R. Parker, Adamsville,
Pleasant Hill	Lee Brown, R. 1, Jasper, Ala.	Lee Hanks, Adamsville, Ala.
Union	Mrs. Maggie Sanders, Cordova	Noah Holley, R. 1, Empire,
Shiloh	Mrs. Rhoda Smith, Birm'ham	J. T. Quick, R. 1, Cullman,
Number Members	14	14
Members Died	1	2
Members Dismissed
Received by Baptism	7	5
Received by Letter	1	6