

The
Birmingham District
Association
of
Free Will Baptists

1943

Proceedings of the
5th Annual Session

Convened at
Shilo Church
Gardendale Alabama

MINUTES

OF THE
FIFTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE
BIRMINGHAM DISTRICT ASSOCIATION

OF THE
FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH OF CHRIST

HELD WITH

Shilo Church at Gardendale, Alabama

September 3 and 4, 1943

OFFICERS

Moderator, Rev. Lee Hanks, Rt. 2 Calera, Ala.

Clerk-Treas., Rev. Douglas Harris, Rt. 7 Birmingham Ala

Next setting of this association will be held with Meadows Chapel Church Blossburg, Alabama. Beginning Friday night before the 1st. Sunday in September, 1944.

PROCEEDINGS

The fifth annual session of the Birmingham District Association called to order Friday night by the moderator, Elder Lee Hanks. By the choir singing, "The Haven of Rest", "Holy Manna". Elder Leroy Smith was called upon for the opening prayer. The moderator read scripture, Romans 8:1-4. Devotional committee was appointed; Brother Chelsa Jenkins, Brother Lawrence Hogan, and Brother Charlie Franklin were appointed.

Called for fellowship of association by singing and handshaking. Invited Brothers and Sisters to seats with us. Also visiting ministers to seat with us. Rev. O. C. Morgan and Rev. J. T. Quick from the Flint River Association responded.

Called for Church letters at this time. The following churches reported letters read and accepted and delegates seated.

1. Shiloh Church:
Sister Asillee Hogan, Sister Rhoda Smith, Sister Lula Harris.
2. Meadows Chapell:
Sister Fannie Franklin, Sister Sarah Hardin, Sister Fambrough.
3. Union: By Letter.
4. Oak Grove:
Sister Flora Tubbs, Sister Mamie Fields, Sister Oma Lee Fields.
5. Pleasant Hill:
Brother Chelsa Jenkins, Sister Bailey, Sister Key, Sister Lula Rice.

Rev. Douglas Harris preached at the eight o'clock service, reading Matthew 27: 17-21. Text: "What Shall I Do To Be Saved."

SATURDAY MORNING

Opened by singing "Leaning on the Everlasting Arm.". Prayer by Elder O. C. Morgan. Brother A. M. Mitchell took charge of devotional reading. John 11: 36-39.

Next, the election of officers: Elder Lee Hanks, Moderator; Elder Douglas Harris, clerk and treasurer.

Rev. A. M. Mitchell preached at the eleven o'clock service, reading Matthew 21:19. The message enjoyed by one and all. After the message, lunch was served by the home church. Called to order at 1 P. M. by moderator. Open singing "Where He Leads Me I Will Follow."

Appointment of committees:

1. Temperance committee: Sister Lula Fambrough, Sister Lula Rice, Sister Fannie Franklin.
2. Business committee: Brother O. C. Morgan, Brother A. M. Mitchell, Brother Chelsa Jenkins.
3. Deceased members: Sister Sarah Hardin, Sister Oma Lee Fields, Sister Lula Rice.
4. Standing Ministry: Brother Charlie Franklin, Brother Chelsa Jenkins, Sister Fannie Franklin, Sister Rosa Prestige.
5. Ordaining council: Brother Douglas Harris, Brother A. M. Mitchell, Brother O. C. Morgan.
6. Auditing committee: Sister Flora Tubbs, Sister Mamie Fields, Sister Lizzie Williams.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

TEMPERANCE—Be temperate in all things. To love thy Lord with all thy heart, soul and strength. Do unto others as you would have them do unto you. Chairman, Sister Lula Fambrough.

DECEASED MEMBERS—We, your committee, wish to report that Sister John Moore has passed away since we last met. She was a faithful member of Union Church and her many friends feel she left a wonderful testimony. May we strive each day to profit by those who have lived faithful unto the end. Chairman, Sister Sarah Harden.

AUDITING: We, your committee, after examining clerks books find all books in order. Chairman, Sister Flora Tubbs.

BUSINESS COMMITTEE'S REPORT: We, your business committee make the following report..

1. We find the letter from Shady Grove Church not in order.
2. We recommend that Brother Davenport's letter to be read and received and bid him God's speed.
3. We recommend that each church build up a treasure for the general expenses of the churches and association known as General Fund.
4. We recommend that each church in said Association pay its equal share for publication of minutes.
5. We also recommend that this association grant its ministers a certificate of standing for coming year.

ORDAINING: We wish to defer the case of Brother Leroy Smith until a later date. Chairman, Douglas Harris.

MINISTERS REPORT:

A. M. Mitchell:

No. churches pastored	2
No. sermons preached	106
No. funerals conducted	0
No. baptized	13
No. revivals held	2
No. marriages	0
No. miles traveled	1818
Amount received	\$67.50
Expenses of work	\$63.25

Douglas Harris:

No. churches pastored	1
No. baptized	1
No. sermons preached	47
No. revivals held	3
No. miles traveled	750
Amount received	\$120.00
Expenses of work	\$15.75

J. M. Holley:

No. churches pastored	1
No. sermons preached	51
No. miles traveled	131
Amount received	\$6.00
Expenses of work	\$3.50

Lee Hanks:

No. churches pastored	2
No. missions pastored	2
No. sermons preached	111
No. funerals conducted	2
Revival held	5
No. baptized	8
Marriages performed	1
Miles traveled	3075
Amount received	\$275.95
Expenses of work	\$185.25

MINISTER'S ROLL

Rev. Noah Holley, Rt. 1 Empire, Alabama.
 Rev. J. M. Holley, Rt. 2 Cordova, Alabama.
 Rev. J. W. Murry, Rt. 1 Jasper, Alabama.
 Rev. A. M. Mitchel, 1245 41 St. Wylam, Alabama.
 Rev. Douglas Harris, Rt. 7 Birmingham, Alabama.
 Rev. Lee Hanks, Rt. 2 Calera, Alabama.

VISITING MINISTERS

Rev. O. C. Morgan
 Rev. J. T. Quick

CLERK'S REPORT

Paid out for minutes	\$13.86
Paid out for state minutes, 1942 and 43	14.10
Received for home mission	\$52.10
Received for minutes	20.00
Received for orphanage	11.00 11.00
	83.10 38.96
In treasure now	61.00
	\$144.10
Paid out	38.96
	\$106.04

Voted to send delegates to State Association. Bro. Charlie Franklin, Sister Lula Rice, Bro. Chalmes Harris, Sister Lee Hanks, Bro. Chelsa Jenkins, Sister Fannie Franklin were elected. Voted to have 200 minutes printed.

At eight o'clock Rev. J. J. Stabb made a very interesting talk on the orphan's home, and also the educational program.

Then Rev. O. C. Morgan preached, his text "Where is the God of Elijah?" After which all christians present took part in Communion services and feet washing.

Services adjourned until Friday night before the first Monday in September.

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, 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.

Psalm 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 effected 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; Pro. 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.

STATISTICAL TABLE

CHURCH	PASTOR	CLERK
Oak Grove	Rev. Douglas Harris B'Ham, Alabama Rt. 7, Box 258	Mrs. Flora Tubb
Shilo		
Meadow Chappel	Rev. A. M. Mitchel Wylam, Alabama 1245--41st. Street	Will Minyard
Union	Rev. J. M. Holley Cordova, Alabama Route	Maggie Sanders Cordova, Alabama Route 2
Shady Grove	Failed to Report	
Pleasant Hill	Lee M. Brown Jasper, Alabama Route 1	

Paid Pastor	Paid Evangelist	No. Sunday School Pupils	No. Members Received	Baptized	Excluded	Died	Paid Orphanage	Amount enclosed for min.	Building Repairs	Total Membership
\$120.00		35	1	1	0	0	\$8.43	\$3.00		35
46.00	\$12.00	25	8	8	0	0	4.00	5.00	\$60.00	45
21.50	5.50	20	5	7	0	0		5.00	15.00	31
			2	0	1		2.00			11
50.11	30.71	10	3					5.00		57