

**The
Birmingham District
Association
of
Free Will Baptist**

CHURCH OF CHRIST

1944

**Proceedings of the
6 th. Annual Session**

**Convened with
Pleasant Hill
Free Will Baptist Church
Sept. 1-2 1944**

MINUTES
OF THE
SIXTH ANNUAL SESSION
OF THE
BIRMINGHAM DISTRICT ASSOCIATION
OF
FREE WILL BAPTIST
CHURCH OF CHRIST

HELD WITH

Pleasant Hill Church, Jasper, Alabama, Rt. 1
September 1-2, 1944

OFFICERS

Moderator, Rev. Lee Hanks, Calera, Alabama
Ass't. Mod. Rev. Douglas Harris, Birmingham, Ala.
Clerk, Mrs. Lee Hanks, Calera, Ala.

The next setting of this Association will be held
with Oak Grove Church near Mineral Springs, begin-
ning Friday night before the first Monday in Septem-
ber, 1945.

Free Will Baptist Gem, 211 Bond St. Monett, Missouri

PROCEEDINGS

FRIDAY NIGHT

The Sixth Annual Session of the Birmingham District Conference was called to order Friday night by the Moderator. The choir singing, prayer by Bro. John Murray.

The Fellowship of the body was called for by the old fashion hand shaking while singing, "Watching You".

The body was declared ready for business, invited brothers and sisters to sit with us in Godly deliberation.

Moderator appointed devotional committee, Bro. Charlie Franklin, Bro. Olan Rice, Bro. W. C. Bailey, Bro. William South was appointed.

Bro. A. M. Mitchell conducted the Devotional speaking on, "Walking in the Light." All Christians taking a part in praise services. After which we sang, "Oh Think of the Home Over There". Then we had alter prayer led by Bro. O. K. Morgan.

Evening message by Bro. Henry Doss.

SATURDAY MORNING

Body was called to order by singing the, "Lily of the Valley", and "The Glory Land Way". Bro. Alfred Hogan led our morning prayer.

Moderator declared the body ready for business.

Bro. Douglas Harris conducted morning devotional, reading Matt. 5:12. Church letters were called for and a reading committee was appointed. Sister Azelee Hogan, Bro. C. L. Harris.

The following reported:

1. Oak Grove, Birmingham, Ala. Rt. 7 Box 343.
2. Meadows Chappel, Blossburg, Ala.
3. Shilo, Birmingham, Ala. Rt. 9.
4. Pleasant Hill, Jasper, Ala. Rt. 1.
5. Union, Cordova, Ala. Rt. 2.

Letters were read and adopted, delegates seated as follows:

1. Oak Grove, by letter.
2. Meadows Chappel: Sis. A. M. Mitchell, Sis. Sarah Hardin.
3. Shilo: Sister Azelee Hogan, Sister Rosa Prestage.
4. Pleasant Hill: Bro. Odis Banks, Sis. Aaron, Bro. Curt-

iss Williams.

5. Union, by letter.

The following officers were elected:

Rev. Lee Hanks, moderator.

Rev. Douglas Harris, ass't. moderator.

Mrs. Lee Hanks, clerk and treasurer.

At the eleven o'clock services, Bro. Alfred Hogan preached, reading Luke 13:3. Bro. Leroy Smith followed reading Corinthian 13:11, "Except ye repent, ye shall likewise perish."

Lunch was served and enjoyed by all. After lunch the house was called to order by singing, "Holy Manna".

Our devotional was conducted by Bro. Lee Hanks, reading 2 Timothy 4:1-8, subject, "Loyalty", after which the committees were appointed.

1. BUSINESS—Bro. Olan Rich, chr.; Sis. Azelee Hogan; Sis. Rosa Prestage; Sis. Aaron.

2. ORDAINING COUNCIL—Bro. O. K. Morgan, chr.; Bro. Charlie Franklin; Bro. C. L. Harris; Bro. L. Hogan; Bro. Lee Hanks.

3. TEMPERANCE—Sis. Fannie Franklin, Sis. Rhoda Smith, Bro. Odis Banks.

4. STANDING OF MINISTRY—Sis. Sarah Hardin, Bro. William South, Sis. A. M. Mitchel, Bro. Curtis Williams.

5. AUDITING—Sis. Sarah Hardin, Bro. W. C. Bailey, Bro. William South.

6. DECEASED MEMBERS—Bro. A. M. Mitchell, Bro. L. Hogan, Bro. John Murray.

A free will offering was taken for Orphan's Home, a total of \$38.30 was received.

Committee Reports were received, read and adopted or accepted.

This body voted to exclude Bro. Ray Sexton from our list, and will not be responsible for his conduct hereafter. Also, voted to drop Shady Grove Church from our church list.

At this time, while committees were out, Bro. Douglas Harris discussed our Orphan's Home and its condition, also made a report on Rally Day at the home. At this time, Committee come in with their report. It was moved and carried that the moderator appoint delegates to State Associations that we also send State Association funds. Sis. Lula Ricks, Sis. Sarah Hardin, Sis. Florra Tubbs, Sis. A. M. Mitchell, Bro. Lee M. Brown, and Bro. Curtis Williams were appointed. It was recommended and passed that this body have printed forms for their minister's report.

Bro. A. M. Mitchell reported on his Evangelistic work, visited all of the churches, run revivals for some, and filled pastoral work for some churches. Bro. Mitchell moved that we postpone setting the next quarterly conference until later. It was carried.

Voted to give clerk \$10.00 for her services.

Bro. A. M. Mitchell was selected for the 7 o'clock services Saturday night. His text, "Arise Go Unto Nineveh that Great City and Preach Unto It.", followed by Bro. John Murray.

The next setting of this conference will convene with Oak Grove Church on Friday night before the first Monday in September. Committee's report read and adopted. Business Committee wishes to report all letters in order.

We find the churches have ask for the ordination of Bro. Leroy Smith, Bro. Alfred Hogan, and Bro. Henry Doss. We recommend that the ordaining council question them as to their calling.

Standing of Ministry

We, your committee, wish to report we find no fault against the ministers on their work and recommend that all of our ministers be given a certificate of standing.

Sis. Sarah Hardin

Temperance

We, your committee, report to love the Lord with all heart, soul, and strength. "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you."

Chr. Sis. Fannie Franklin

Ordaining Council

We, the ordaining council, recommend Bro. Alfred Hogan and Bro. Henry Doss be ordained and Bro. Leroy Smith be licensed. We find them steadfast in the faith and worthy of their calling.

Rev. O.K. Morgan, Chr.

Deceased Members

We, your committee on deceased members, wish to report that Sister Pauline Jones and Sister Margret Powell and Bro. J. D. Dempsy, all being members of Meadows Chapel Church, passed away from us since we last met and who being faithful members. These members left a wonderful record behind and let us strive that we may do the same and win the crown that we so earnestly desire. We also report the death of Bro. Ed Bucklew of Oak Grove Church who was a God fearing man and who left an enduring record behind. One that will go down in history. We love Bro. Bucklew and his work. Let us strive to meet him.

Also Sis. Idella Holley of Union Church who left a wonderful record behind. Let us all strive to enter into the home that God has for us and all those who have passed on.

Also Bro. Paul Godfrey of Pleasant Hill Church, who was a faithful member of his calling and one that loved God and enjoyed his blessings and who we hope is now enjoying the good things God has for those who love Him.

Rev. A.M. Mitchell, Chr.

Minister's Report

Rev. L. Hanks
No. Churches Pastored 0
No. Sermons Preached 79
No. Baptized 3
No. Funerals Conducted 3
No. Revivals Conducted 2
No. Miles Traveled 1900
Amount Received \$75.37
Expenses report lost.

Rev. J.M. Holley
Miles Traveled 75
Amount Received \$4.50
Expenses \$2.50
No. Sermons preached 50
Funerals Conducted 4
Marriages 2

Rev. Henry Doss
Miles Traveled 275
No. Sermons Preached 40
No. Funerals Conducted 1
Expenses \$6.00

Rev. A.M. Mitchell
No. Miles Traveled 1800
No. Sermons Preached 102
No. Baptized 2
No. Marriages 2
No. Funerals 2
Part Time Pastor 2
No. Revivals 2
Collected \$43.25
Expenses \$65.00

Rev. W.R. Parker
Miles Traveled 500
No. Sermons Preached 24
Marriages 1
Received \$4.00
Expenses \$5.00

Rev. Douglas Harris
No. Churches Pastored 0
No. Baptized 0
No. Funerals 1
Miles Traveled 500
No. Sermons 33

Rev. O.K. Morgan
No. Churches Pastored 1
No. Sermons Preached 48
No. Communion Services Held 4
No. Devotional Services Held 20
No. Revivals Assisted in 4
No. Miles Traveled 2496
Expenses \$60.80
Collected \$164.26

Rev. Noah Holley, Absent
 Rev. J. M. Holley, Absent
 Rev. J. M. Murry, Verbal Rep.

Clerk's Report

Rec. for minutes at this session.

1. Oak Grove	\$5.00
2. Meadows Chapel	\$5.00
3. Shilo	\$7.00
4. Peasant Hill	\$5.00
5. Union	\$3.00
Total received for minutes	\$25.00
Paid out for 1934 minutes	\$17.48
Total in Treasure now	\$114.52

Report on Orphans Home

Fund submitted by Field Worker, Rev. Lee Hanks.	
Association	\$38.30
Quarterly Meetings	37.61
Meadows Chapel Church	64.25
Oak Grove Church	98.43
Pleasant Hill Church	40.50
Shilo Church	73.00
Personal gifts	77.22
Other Offerings	54.32
Total	\$483.63

Ministers Roll

List of ministers present.

1. Rev. Douglas Harris, Birmingham, Alabama
2. Rev. Leroy Smith, Rt. 9, Birmingham, Alabama
3. Rev. Alfred Hagan
4. Rev. W.R. Parker, Birmingham, Alabama, 1833 Pearson Avenue W.
5. Rev. Henry Doss, Blossburg, Alabama
6. Rev. A. M. Mitchell, Wylam, Alabama, 1245 41st Street
7. Rev. Noah Holley, Empire, Alabama
8. Rev. J.W. Murrah, Jasper, Alabama
9. Rev. Lee Hanks, Calera, Alabama, Rt. 2 B 18
10. Rev. J.M. Holley, Rt. 2 Cordova, 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; 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.

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, JUDGEMENT, 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.

FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH COVENANT

Having given ourselves to God by faith in Christ, and adopted the Word of God as our rule of faith and practice, we now give ourselves to one another by the will of God in this solemn covenant. We Promise by His grace to love and obey Him in all things, to avoid the appearance of evil, to abstain from all sinful amusements and unholy conformity to the world; from all sanction of the use and sale of intoxicating beverages, and to "provide things honest in the sight of all men."

We agree to accept Christian admonition and reproof with meekness, and to watch over one another in love, endeavoring to "keep the unity of the Spirit," in the bonds of peace, to be careful of one another's happiness and reputation, and seek to strengthen the weak, encourage the afflicted, admonish the erring, and as far as we are able, promote the success of the church and of the Gospel.

We will everywhere hold Christian principle sacred and Christian obligations and enterprises supreme: counting it our chief business in life to extend the influence of Christ in society; constantly praying and toiling that the kingdom of God may come, and His will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

We agree faithfully to discharge our obligations in reference to the study of the Scriptures, secret prayer, family devotions, and social worship; and by self-denial, faith, and good works endeavor to "grow in grace and the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." We will not forget the assembling of ourselves together for church conferences, public worship, and the observance of the ordinances of the Gospel, nor fail to pay according to our ability for the support of the church of its poor, and all its benevolent work.

To this end we agree to labor for the promotion of educational and denominational enterprises, the support of missions, the success of Sunday schools, and evangelistic efforts for the salvation of souls, and the conversion of the world. And may the God of peace sanctify us wholly, and preserve us blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

STATISTICAL TABLE

CHURCHES	CLERKS	PASTOR	Deaths	Paid for Repairs	Paid Pastor	Value of Churches	No. Ministers	No. Ladies Aux.	No. S.S. Members	No. F.W.B. Leagues	No. Baptized	Paid Evangelist	Paid Orphanage	No. Members
Meadows Chapel	Will Maynard Blosssburg, Ala.	Rev. A.M. Mitchel Wylan, Ala.	3	\$477.93	\$ 22.00	\$1000.	3	1	35		1	\$ 70.00	\$ 64.25	43
Pleasant Hill	Lee M. Brown Jasper, Ala.	Rev. H. Davenport Cullman, Ala.	1	50.00	54.88	1000.	3		25			30.00	40.50	49
Shilo	Mrs. Rhoda Smih B.Ham, Ala.	Rev. Leroy Smih B.Ham, Ala.			8.00	1000.	3		30		1		73.00	65
Oak Grove	Mrss. Flora Tubb B.Ham, Ala.	Rev. W.R. Parker B.Ham, Ala.	1		21.00	700.			30	1		34.60	98.43	35
Union	No Report													
Total			5	\$527.93	\$105.88	\$3700.	9	1	120	1	2	\$134.60	\$276.18	192