

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

1945

**Proceedings of the
7th. Annual Session**

**Convened at
Oak Grove Church**

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

HELD WITH
Oak Grove Church, Fields Town
September 1-2, 1945

OFFICERS

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

The next setting of this association will be held
with Meadows Chapel Church, Blossburg, Alabama,
beginning Friday night before the first Monday in
September, 1946.

PROCEEDINGS

FRIDAY NIGHT

The Seventh Annual Session of the Birmingham District Conference was called to order Friday Night by Rev. A. M. Mitchell, called for song on fellowship of Association singing "Where We'll Never Grow Old." Prayer by Bro. Davenport. Devotion Committee appointed by the acting moderator: Bro. Charlie Franklin, Bro. George Beaty, Sister Mary Helen McCay. Bro. O. K. Morgan, conducted Devotion. Bro. Davenport brought the evening message using as his subject, "Peace and Safety."

SATURDAY MORNING

Moderator reading 131 Psalms, called for report of devotional committee. Rev. Lee Hanks has the Devotional. Rev. Noah Holley has the eleven o'clock message. Called for church letters. Sister Flora Tubbs was appointed to read letters. Four churches reported.

1. Meadows Chapel: Sis. Helen McCay, Bro. A. M. Mitchell.

2. Pleasant Hill: Sis. Lula Rice, Sis. Aaron, Sis. P. Z. Banks.

3. Oak Grove: Bro. George Beaty, Sis. Flora Tubbs. Sis. Hettie Jones

4. Shilo: Bro. George Fulton, Sis. Azilee Hogan.

Letters were read and delegates seated. The following officers were elected:

Moderator, Rev. Lee Hanks

Ass't. Moderator, Douglas Harris

Clerk, Mrs. Lee Hanks

Assistant Moderator and Moderator appointed committees.

1. Business Committee: Rev. A. M. Mitchell, Bro. Charlie Franklin, Bro. George Beaty.

2. Temperance Committee: Sister A. M. Mitchell, Sis. Azilee Hogan, Sister Helen McCay.

3. Auditing Committee: Rev. W. R. Parker, Sister P. Z. Banks.

4. Ordaining Council: Rev. Lee Hanks, Rev. A. M.

Mitchell, Rev. J. W. Murray, Rev. W. R. Parker, Rev. Noah Holley.

5. Standing of the Ministry: Bro. George Beaty, Sis. Lula Rice, Sister Azilee Hogan.

Eleven o'clock message, scripture St. John, Chapter 5, verse 6, "Wilt Thou be made whole."

Lunch was served on the church grounds which was enjoyed by all, thanks to the ladies of the community.

1:30 o'clock the session was called. All joined in singing, "I Want To Be A Worker," "He Leadeth Me," "I'll Be Satisfied." Moved that all visiting ministers be seated with us and that they be given a vote in our work. Discussed helping our old minister. Taken up free will offering for the aged ministers, received ten dollars. While Committees were out, Bro. Douglas gave a talk on "A Merciful Saviour." After song service, Bro. J. T. Quick gave us a talk. Ordaining Council at this time ordained Bro. Irkel Gunter to act as Deacon of Meadows Chapel Church. Moved that our quarterly conference be resumed on Saturday Night before the 5th Sunday at Pleasant Hill.

Received Reports from Committees.

Business Committee:

We, your committee, examined all letters. Find request for ordination of Bro. Irkel Gunter. We recommend that the council examine him and if found worthy ordain him, also Bro. Farley and Bro. George Fulton be examined and if found worthy, license them to preach the Gospel.

Chairman, Rev. A. M. Mitchell

Auditing Committee:

We, your Auditing Committee, have examined the books and find them all in order.

Chairman, W. R. Parker

Temperance Committee:

We, your Committee on Temperance, report we should be temperance in all things that is contrary to God's will and at all times serve the Lord.

Chairman, Mrs. Flora Tubbs

Deceased Members:

We, your Decease Committee, don't know of any members of our association who has died since this body met last year, for this we thank God.

Chairman, Mrs. A. M. Mitchel

Ordaining Council:

We, your Ordaining Council, wish to report that we have examined Bro. Irkel Gunter and recommend that he be ordained. Also Bro. Farley and Bro. George Fulton be granted licenses to preach the Gospel.

Chairman, Rev. Lee Hanks

Standing of the Ministry:

We, your committee, find all ministers in good standing and recommend that they be given a certificate of standing.

Chairman

The following visiting ministers were given welcome address by Moderator:

Rev. J. T. Quick, Gardendale, Alabama

Rev. D. H. Davenport, Cullman, R. F. D. 1, Alabama

Rev. O. K. Morgan

MINISTER'S ROLL

Rev. Douglas Harris, Birmingham, Ala. Rt. 9 B. 121

Rev. Leroy Smith, Birmingham, Ala. Rt. 9 B. 125

Rev. W. R. Parker, Birmingham, Ala. 1833 Pearson

Rev. Henry Doss, Blossburg, Ala.

Rev. A. M. Mitchel, 1245 Erie Street, Wylam, Ala.

Rev. Noah Holley, Empire, Alabama, Route 1

Rev. J. W. Murray, Jasper, Ala. Route 1, B. 208

Rev. J. M. Holley, Route 2, Cordova, Alabama

Rev. Lee Hanks, Calera, Ala.

CLERK'S REPORT

Oak Grove	\$5.00
Meadows Chapel	5.00
Shilo	5.00
Pleasant Hill	5.00
Total for Minutes	20.00
Paid out for 1944 Minutes	18.00
Paid out for printing minister report	2.00

Total Paid out 20.00
 In treasure now \$104.36

REPORT OF OLD AGE MINISTER'S FUND

Meadows Chapel \$5.00
 Oak Grove 15.00
 Shilo 5.00
 Pleasant Hill 27.75
 Personal Gift 27.25
 Collection 10.00
 Total \$90.00

Paid out to Ministers:
 Rev. J. W. Murray \$45.00
 Rev. J. M. Holley 45.00
 Total Paid out \$90.00
 Balance in treasure None

Rev. Lee Hanks, Treasurer

MINISTER'S ANNUAL REPORT

No. Churches Pastored 0
 No. Sermons Preached 94
 No. Funerals Conducted 2
 No. Baptized 0
 No. Revivals Assisted In 6
 No. Marriages Performed 1
 No. Miles Traveled 1531
 Amount of Offering Received 235.56
 Expense of Ministerial Work 38.75

Rev. Lee Hanks
 Calera, Alabama, Rt. B. 18

No. Churches Pastored 0
 No. Sermons Preached 73
 No. Funerals Conducted 0
 No. Baptized 0
 No. Revivals Assisted In 4
 No. Marriages Performed 1
 No. Miles Traveled 3341
 Amount of offering received \$144.57
 Expense of Ministerial Work \$25.67
 Received Old Age Fund 45.00

Rev. J. W. Murray
 Jasper, Alabama, Rt. 2 B 208

No. Churches Pastored 0
 No. Sermons Preached 27
 No. Funerals Conducted 3
 No. Baptized 0
 No. Revivals Assisted In 0
 No. Marriages Performed 2
 No. Miles Traveled 0
 Amount of offering received 0
 Expense of Ministerial Work 0

Rev. Henry Doss
 Blossburg, Alabama

No. Churches Pastored 1
 No. Sermons Preached 52
 No. Funerals Conducted 0
 No. Baptized 0
 No. Revivals Assisted In 0
 No. Marriages Performed 0
 No. Miles Traveled 250
 Amount of offering received \$12.00
 Expense of Ministerial Work \$60.00

Rev. Leroy Smith
 Birmingham, Ala. Route 9, B. 125

No. Churches Pastored 1
 No. Sermons Preached 123
 No. Funerals Conducted 2
 No. Baptized 4
 No. Revivals Assisted In 3
 No. Marriages Performed 0
 No. Miles Traveled 2000
 Amount of Offering Received \$71.55
 Expense of Ministerial Work \$80.00

Rev. A. M. Mitchell
 1245 Erie Street
 Wylam, Alabam
 Pastor at Meadows Chapel

No. Churches Pastored 1
 No. Sermons Preached 72
 No. Funerals Conducted 0
 No. Baptized 0
 No. Revivals Assisted In 2
 No. Marriages Performed 0
 No. Miles Traveled 795

Amount of Offering Received \$111.06
Expense of Ministerial Work \$9.45

Rev. W. R. Parker
1833 Pearson Avenue W.
Birmingham, 7, Alabama

No. Churches Pastored 0
No. Sermons Preached 14
No. Funerals Conducted 0
No. Baptized 0
No. Revivals Assisted In 2
No. Marriages Performed 1
No. Miles Traveled 0
Amount of offering received \$25.00
Expense of Ministerial Work \$3.50

Douglas Harris
Rt. 9, Box 121
Birmingham, Alabama

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 and 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 a 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 ten 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 arise 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.

15. The moderator that receives the most votes shall be elected moderator and the next highest assistant moderator.

Ass't. Mod. Rev. Douglas Harris, Birmingham, Ala.

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 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 REPORT

Churches	Clerks	Pastors	Deaths	Paid for Repairs	Paid Pastors	Value of Churches	No. Ministers	No. Sunday Schools	Paid Evangelist	Paid Orphanage	No. Members	Members Received
Meadows Chapel	Mrs. Irlkel Gunter Blossburg, Ala.	Rev. A. M. Mitchel 1245 Erie St. Wylan, Ala.		\$55.00	\$71.50	\$1,000.00	3	25	\$125.90	\$20.00	35	1
Pleasant Hill	Lee M. Brown Jasper, Ala. Rt. 1	Rev. Lee Hanks Rt. 2 Box 18 Calera, Ala.				1,000.00	3	20			148	1
Oak Grove	Mrs. Flora Tubbs Rt. 7 Box 343 Birmingham, Ala.	Rev. W. R. Parker 1833 W. Pearson Ave. Birmingham, Ala.			110.00	700.00		20			35	
Shilo						1,000.00		1				