

THE  
*Birmingham District Association*

of

FREE WILL BAPTIST  
CHURCH OF CHRIST

---

1947

*Proceedings Of The  
Ninth Annual Session*

---

Held With

PLEASANT HILL CHURCH, JASPER, RT. 1.

August 29 - 30, 1947



# MINUTES

Of The

NINTH ANNUAL SESSION

Of The

*Birmingham District Association*

Of

FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH OF CHRIST

---

HELD WITH

Pleasant Hill Church, Jasper, Route 1.

August 29 - 30, 1947

---

## OFFICERS

Moderator—Rev. J. F. Williams ..... Birmingham, Ala.  
Ass't. Mod.—Rev. Lee Hanks ..... Calera, Ala.  
Clerk-Treasurer—Mrs. C. R. Williams.... Birmingham, Ala.  
Ass't. Clerk—Mrs. Lee ..... Birmingham, Ala.

---

The next setting of this Association will be held with Mt. Zion Church of East Thomas, beginning Thursday night before the first Monday in September at 7:30 P. M., 1948.

### ORDER OF CHURCH CONFERENCE

The body is declared ready for business:

1. Call for peace and fellowship of the church.
2. Opportunity for members.
3. Invite visitors to seat with us.
4. Reading of minutes of last conference.
5. Call for acknowledgements.
7. Unfinished business.
6. Deacons report.
8. New business.
9. Report from sick committee.
10. Motion to adjourn.



## PROCEEDINGS FRIDAY NIGHT

Proceedings of the Ninth Annual Session of the Birmingham District Association met with Pleasant Hill Church on Friday night, August 29th, 1947.

The Moderator welcomed all that were present to take part with us in our worship services. We had a nice crowd of visitors with us.

Devotional Services were conducted by Br. W. O. Marlow, with all Christians taking part in the services.

The message was brought by Rev. Hence Davenport, reading St. John the 12th chapter. This was followed by the Rev. A. R. Barker, reading Matthew 1:21.

The Moderator appointed a Devotional Committee, Bro. Curtiss Williams, Bro. Charlie Franklin, and Bro. Frank Higdon.

## SATURDAY MORNING

Called together by singing songs of praise. Prayer by Rev. A. R. Barker.

Moderator reading the 133rd Psalm, called for peace and fellowship of the body, singing "I'm In The Way", with an old-time hand shake.

Declared the body ready for business. Called for letters. The following churches reported:

1. Mt. Zion: Sister Mae Barker, Sister J. F. Williams, Sister C. R. Williams, Sister Lee and Sister Farlain.

2. Pleasant Hill: Sister Gurthure Aaron, Sister Ludie Banks, Bro. Vester Tidwell, Bro. Manely Williams, Bro. Raymond Alred.

3. Meadows Chapel: Sister Fannie Franklin, Sister George Ann Kelly, Sister Betty Lou Kelly.

4. Shiloh: Bro. Lawrence Hoggan, Bro. W. M. Farley, Bro. Ciy Tidwell, Sister Willie Tidwell, Sister Lila Lee Fulton. Appointed reading committee. Sister Charlie Williams, Bro. Coy Tidwell.

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

Moderator: Rev. J. F. Williams.

Ass't. Moderator: Rev. Lee Hanks.

Clerk and Treasurer: Mrs. C. R. Williams.

Ass't Clerk: Mrs. Lee.

Committees Appointed by Moderator:

1. Business Committee: Rev. A. R. Barker, Rev. Henry Doss, Bro. C. K. Evans, and Bro. Frank Higdon.

2. Standing of Ministry: Bro. Curtiss Williams, Bro. Raymond Alred, Sister Willie Tidwell, Sister Mae Barker.

3. Deceased Committee: Bro. Coy Tidwell, Sister Gurthure Aaron, Sister Ludie Banks, Bro. Lee M. Brown.

4. Temperance Committee: Sister Betty Lou Kelly, Sister George Ann Kelly, Bro. Charlie Franklin, Bro. Olen Rice, Bro. C. K. Evans.

5. Auditing Committee: Rev. Perry Frederick, Bro. Thomas Evans, Sister Fannie Franklin, Sister J. F. Williams.

6. Ordaining Council: Rev. O. K. Morgan, Rev. Hence Davenport, Rev. Henry Doss, Bro. Charlie Franklin, Bro. Baily.

7. Executive Committee: Bro. Lester Banks, Bro. Curtiss Williams, Bro. F. S. Higdon, Bro. Walter Murphy, Bro. C. K. Evans.

The eleven o'clock message was brought by Rev. O. K. Morgan of Flint River, reading the 6th chapter of Revelation. He was followed by Rev. Perry Fredrick "On Love."

Lunch was served at the church and enjoyed by all.

Returned for afternoon services, singing, "I'll Fly Away". Moderator reading Titus 1st chapter, prayer by Rev. Lee Hanks.

The business committee gave a partial report. It was accepted and adopted by items.

1. Those following were questioned by the Ordaining Council: Rev. Perry Fredrick, Rev. W. M. Farley, Bro. C. K. Evans, Bro. Thomas Evans, Bro. Raymond Alred, Bro. Oscar Aaron, Bro. Coy Tidwell.

Rev. Perry Fredrick, Rev. W. M. Farley, Rev. George Fulton, were granted licenses to preach for one year.

Bro. C. K. Evans, Bro. Thomas Evans, were ordained deacons of Mt. Zion Church.

Bro. Raymond Alred, Bro. Oscar Aaron, were ordained deacons of Pleasant Hill Church.

Bro. Coy Tidwell was ordained deacon of Shiloh Church.

2. Standing of Ministry:

We as the committee see fit to give all Ministers a Certificate of Standing for one year, Except Rev. Jim Hale, not present and not submitting a report.

Chairman Bro. Curtiss Williams.



### DECEASED MEMBERS REPORT

#### 3. Deceased Committee:

We the committee on deceased members. Since our last setting of this association, to our sorrow we find we have lost one of our beloved brothers, Rev. J. W. Murry. We feel our loss is heaven's gain.

Chairman Bro. Coy Tidwell

### TEMPERANCE COMMITTEE

#### 4. Temperance Committee:

We your committee on temperance, submit the following report: Be temperate in all things. Use God's word for our rule. And be guided by the Spirit of God, for it will cleanse us if we will obey it. Do all things decently and in order.

Chairman, Betty Lou Kelly.

### AUDITING COMMITTEE

#### 5. Auditing Committee:

We your auditing committee have examined the books of 1946 and find them in order.

Chairman, Rev. Perry Fredrick.

Final report of business committee:

We recommend that the following rules be adopted into our rules of decorum:

1. That any minister carrying licenses first be called to pastor a church, or be set apart by the association, as a district evangelist before being set apart by ordination.

2. When he is called to pastor a church the church to which he belongs, is notified, and the ordaining council is called. He is ordained in his home church by request of said church.

3. We recommend that preachers coming from other associations, have a certificate of standing, or a recommendation from their association.

4. We recommend that we correspond and ask correspondence with other associations.

### CLERK'S REPORT

Balance carried from 1946 Association	\$134.23
Paid out for Minutes	38.25
Paid out for State Association	10.00
Balance	\$85.98
Additional	.02
Total in bank	\$86.00

Mrs. Lee Hanks

### MINISTER'S ROLL

Rev. J. F. Williams	Route 8, Birmingham 8, Ala.
Rev. Ira Lee Hanks	Route 2, Calera, Ala.
Rev. Walter Coleman	Blossburg, Ala.
Rev. Henry Doss	Blossburg, Ala.
Rev. J. M. Holly	Route 2, Cordova, Ala.
Rev. A. R. Barker	800 24th Ave., W., Birmingham, Ala.
Rev. Wm. A. Farley	Blossburg, Ala.
Rev. W. R. Parker	1833 Pearson Ave., Birmingham, Ala.

### MINISTERS AND DEACONS CONFERENCE

The conference was held with the following taking part: Ministers, Rev. J. F. Williams, Rev. Lee Hanks, Rev. Henry Doss, Rev. A. R. Barker, Rev. Wm. A. Farley, Rev. J. M. Holly.

Visiting Ministers of Flint River Association, Rev. Hance Davenport, Rev. W. O. Marlow, Rev. O. K. Morgan.

Deacons, Bro. C. K. Evans, Bro. F. S. Higdon, Bro. Thomas Evans, Bro. Curtiss Williams, Bro. Raymond Alfred, Bro. Oscar Aaron, Bro. Olen Rice, Bro. Coy Tidwell, Bro. Charlie Franklin, and Bro. Bailey.

Rev. Walter Coleman, Moderator.

Mrs Fannie Lou Lee, Clerk.

The right hand of fellowship was given and enjoyed by all.

### SATURDAY NIGHT

Returned for service, singing "Wont it be Wonderful There". Prayer by Rev. Wm. A. Farley. Moderator reading 12th chapter of Romans.

Rev. Lee Hanks was elected Evangelist for the association. Voted to have five hundred (500) copies of the minutes printed.

Devotional services conducted by Rev. Wm. A. Farley. Message by Rev. W. O. Marlow. Reading 1st chapter of St. John, followed with the Lord's Supper and feet washing, with all Christians taking part.

A vote of thanks was extended to Pleasant Hill Church for the kindness shown us.



#### 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 composing 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 the minutes 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, motion and a second and be disposed of by 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 minister that receives the most votes shall be elected Moderator, and the next highest, Assistant Moderator.

16. That any minister carrying licenses first be called to pastor a church, or be set apart by the association, as District Evangelist, before being set apart by ordination.

17. When he is called to pastor a church, the church to which he belongs is notified, and the ordaining council is called. He is ordained in his home church by request of said church.

18. We recommend that preachers coming from other associations have a certificate of standing, or a recommendation from their association.

19. We recommend that we correspond and ask correspondence with other associations.

#### 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; 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. Exodus 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 of 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.

We regret that we are unable to get the Ministers Report in the Minutes at this time.



Churches	Clerks	Pastors	Paid Pastor	Publication	Paid Evangelist	Building and Repairs	Home Mission	Members Died	No. Dismissed	Rec. by Baptism	Rec. by Letter	Sunday School	No. Ministers	No. Members
Meadows Chapel	Mrs. Ruby Gunter Blossburg, Ala.	Rev. Walter Coleman Blossburg, Ala.	106.69	20.60	29.50				3		3	15	2	38
Pleasant Hill	Manely Williams Jasper, Ala. Rt. 1	Rev. Walter Coleman Blossburg, Ala.	268.70		99.13	130.00		1	2			30	2	61
Mt. Zion	Mae Barker 800 24th Ave., W, B'ham, Ala.	Rev. A. R. Barker 800 24th Ave., W, B'ham, Ala.	110.00		500.00	1528.76			5		15		3	25
Shiloh	Coy Tidwell	Rev. Walter Coleman Blossburg, Ala.	38.10	1.53	32.00	12.30				4		25	2	25
			523.49	22.13	165.63	1671.06		1	10	4	18	70	9	149

Received from Meadows Chapel Church for Orphanage \$18.79