

THE  
Birmingham District Association  
Of  
FREE WILL BAPTIST  
1952

Proceedings Of The  
FOURTEENTH ANNUAL SESSION

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Held With  
Pleasant Hill Church at Sipsy, Alabama  
August 28, 29, 30, 1952

# MINUTES

Of The  
**BIRMINGHAM DISTRICT ASSOCIATION**  
Of  
**FREE WILL BAPTIST**

**Pleasant Hill Church at Sispy, Alabama**

**August 28, 29, 30, 1952**

## OFFICERS

Moderator — Rev. Arthur Barker, 1565 Tuscaloosa Avenue, Birmingham.

Assistant Moderator — Rev. James Elmore, 1221 19th Street, S. W., Birmingham,, Ala.

Clerk — Arthur Johnston, 701 Morris Avenue, Sylacauga, Ala.

The next sitting of this Association will be held with Mt. Zion Church, Birmingham, Alabama on Thursday night before the first Monday in September, 1953.

## 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.
6. Deacons' report.
7. Unfinished business.
8. New business.
9. Report from sick committee.
10. Motion to adjourn.



## PROCEEDINGS THURSDAY NIGHT

Proceedings of the 14th annual session of the Birmingham District Association of Free Will Baptist met with Pleasant Hill Church at Sipsy, August 28, 29, 30, 1952.

Service began with singing of good songs.

Moderator in charge of devotional service with many taking part.

Rev. Odell Harris brought the message reading from First Samuel, 17th chapter, 39th through 47th verses using for his text "The Power of God".

The message was highly enjoyed by all. Prayer by Rev. C. D. Burrell.

Meeting adjourned.

## FRIDAY MORNING

The Association assembled promptly at 9:00 o'clock to enjoy the singing of many good songs.

Prayer by Bro. D. H. Davenport.

Moderator reading from St. John 14th chapter 1st through 6th verses.

A united prayer at the altar led by Bro. V. B. Abney. Asked for peace and fellowship of the body.

The Moderator gave a hearty welcome to the visiting brothers and sisters.

Body declared ready for business. Moved and seconded to give Bro. D. H. Davenport a voice in the body.

Letters called for.

1. Fairview — Bro. Doc Spurlin, Bro. Robert Shaw and Sister Margaret Shaw.

2. Mt. Zion — Bro. Morris Hollis, Bro. Perry Stewart.

3. Meadows Chapel — Sister J. D. Miller, Sister Cliford Dutton, Sister Irk Gunter, Bro. J. D. Miller.

4. Liberty — Bro. Ira Barnette, Bro. Alvin Gentry, Sister Delphia Langford, Sister Selvis Gentry.

5. Shiloh — Br. A. C. Hogan, Jr., Sister Azziler E. Hogan and Sister Edna Fanley.

6. Unity — Bro. John L. Logan, Sister Susie Tyler, Sister Minnie Brooks.

7. Pleasant Hill — Sister Lulu Rice, Ernie Key, Sister Lucy South.

8. East Thomas — Sister W. L. Smith, Sister C. D. Snelling, Sister Arthur Barker.

Moved and seconded to receive the First Free Will Baptist Church at Alton.

9. First Church Alton — Bro. O. L. Barnett, Brother Harold Lecroy, Bro. Johnny Wheeler.

10. First District — Sister Langford, Sister Audrey Barnett, Sister C. K. Evans.

11. Second District — No report.

Reading Comm. — Sister Evelyn Gamel, Bro. Jesse Drummond.

Moved and seconded to let Bro. Hines represent Fairview Church.

Letters read and adopted.

Moved and seconded for the election of officers for another year.

Moderator — Bro. Arthur Barker

Ass't. Moderator — Bro. James Elmore.

Clerk — Bro. Arthur Johnston.

Business Committee — Bro. V. B. Abney, Bro. Snelling, Bro. Barnett, Bro. Marshall, Bro. Allen.

Ordaining Council — Rev. Odell Harris, Bro. Ira Hanks, Br. Jesse Drummond, Bro. C. D. Burrell, Bro. Joe Martin.

Temperance Comm. — Sister Smith, Sister Lucy South, Sister Evans, Sister Susie Tyler, Bro. John L. Logan.

Deceased Committee — Sister Rice, Sister Gamel, Sister Hogan, Bro. Stewart, Bro. Crockers.

Standing of Ministers — Bro. A. C. Hogan, Jr., C. K. Evans, Bro. Charlie Franklin, Sister Brooks, Sister Gunner.

Auditing Committee — Bro. Brayer, Bro. Webster, Bro. Gunter, Sister J. D. Shackelford and Sister Farley.

Executive Committee — Bro. J. M. Hopkins, Bro. Jim Drummonds, Bro. James Elmore, Bro. Ira Hanks, Bro. W. F. Johnston.

Report of Devotional Committee.

Rev. D. H. Davenport to bring the 11:00 o'clock message and Rev. Jesse Drummond to preach at 7:30 p.m.

Prayer by Sister Gamel.

We recessed for about ten minutes.

Assembled back with good singing. Prayer by Bro. Jesse Drummond.

Bro. D. H. Davenport brought the 11:00 o'clock message reading from 1st Samuel 8th chapter. Everyone enjoyed the message.

At this time we received an offering of \$35.41 for the expense of the Association.

Dismissed by prayer by Bro. O. S. Barnett.

We enjoyed lunch that was prepared by the church.

## FRIDAY AFTERNOON

Assembled back with a special in song by Bro. Jesse Drummond. Also congregational singing. Prayer led by Sister Joe Martin. Bro. Harry Wheeler gave us a good message about 10 minutes. Sister Banks also brought a 10 minute message. Bro. Webster gave a special in song. Bro. Alexander gave us a message of about 10 minutes. Another special in song. Bro. Johnny Wheeler, a 12-year old boy gave us a message with the Spirit of God real with us.

Partial report of the Business Committee.

Moved and seconded to receive the report and dispose of it item by item.

1. The Business committee recommended that Certificate of Standing be printed on billfold cards.

2. Recommended that the body adopt the Honorary Ministers' Certificate of Standing for Life with the additional words needed.

3. That those who request licenses and ordinations be turned over to the ordination council.

After which we recessed for 10 minutes. Assembled back with partial report of Ordaining Council. To give Brother Harry Wheeler



license for one year.

At this time the Moderator asked for permission to leave the Conference as he was going to Florida. Moved and seconded to grant him his request.

#### FRIDAY NIGHT

We gathered back at 6:30 with singing of many good songs.

Prayer by Bro. Alexander.

Bro. James Elmore was in charge of a short devotional service.

Bro. Drummond brought the message, reading from 25th chapter of Mathew. His subject "Building On A Rock". Everyone enjoyed his message.

At this time they went into the Ministers' Conference. The Moderator being absent, Bro. Allen acted as Moderator.

#### SATURDAY MORNING

We met at 9:30 with singing of good songs, Bro. Abney directing.

Moderator called on Bro. Jesse Drummond to lead in altar prayer with all taking part.

Moderator Bro. James Elmore read from 1st chapter of St. John.

Body declared ready for business. The business committee asked for Bro. Ira Hanks to assist them in their business. At this time the different committees were dismissed to work on their report.

Bro. Jesse Drummond gave us a special in song also a reading of a poem. We all enjoyed it. While the committees were still out we had a good time in testimonial service.

#### REPORT OF COMMITTEES

Devotional Committee: Bro. Johnny Wheeler to bring the 11:00 o'clock message.

Standing of Ministers: We recommend a certificate to all ministers who represented by their report.—A. C. Hogan, Jr., Chairman.

Deceased Committee: We, your Deceased Committee regret to report that since our last Association we have lost the following members:

1. Bro. Walter Murphy, Meadows Chapel.
2. Sister Lenora Johnston, Unity Church
3. Sister Lola Williams, Fairview Church, Anniston — Lula Rice, Chairman.

Audit Committee: For the year 1951-52, we, the Audit Committee, have examined the books of the secretary and treasurer of the Association and find they are in perfect order and neatly kept. Balance in Treasury, \$1.12. — Irkle Gunter, Chairman.

Temperance Committee: We, the Temperance Committee, Sister Lucy South, Sister C. K. Evans, Sister Susie Tyler and Bro. John L. Logan, recommend and believe that all children of God should be temperant ruling the tongue and bridling the tongue trusting in the Lord, keeping ourselves unspotted from the world, letting our daily life be our testimony, and being led by the Holy Spirit. — Sister Lucy South, Chairman.

Business Committee: We, your Business Committee, recommend:

1. That each church send with its letter the amount of at least

\$10.00 for the expense of Association in order to be represented.

2. We recommend that this body adopt a plan to start a voluntary fund to purchase a plot of ground to build a camp ground for the Birmingham District Association.

3. We recommend that the body accept Walter Coleman's papers and return to him his Missionary Baptist papers.

4. We recommend that the Moderator appoint a man to see Rev. Barber and get the Home Mission Fund back in this Association and place some in treasure for purchasing Camp Ground and appoint a treasurer for said fund. (Amendment) Give body power to elect treasurer for the Camp Ground.

5. We recommend that this body adopt a rule that a licensed minister must prove himself by being called to pastor a church or called by the Association for evangelist work before being eligible for ordination.

6. We recommend that the next setting of the Association be held with East Thomas Church at Birmingham.

7. We recommend that the clerk be paid the sum of \$20 for his service.

8. We recommend that Rev. W. J. Bryant be turned over to the Ordaining Council and if found worthy exchange papers with him.

8. We recommend that this body grant to this church a standing vote of thanks for their kind hospitality and service to the Association. Also give clerk power to write in each minutes. — Rev. V. B. Abney, Chairman.

Moved and seconded to accept all reports and dismiss committees.

Visitors: Bro. Tommy Lee, Bear Creek Association; Bro. Lee Spain, Bear Creek Association; Bro. D. H. Davenport, Flint River Association.

At this time an offering of \$53.11 was received for the expense of purchasing a plot of ground for the camp ground for the Association.

We dismissed for about 10 minutes. Prayer by Bro. John C. Baxley.

Assembled back with good singing. Bro. Johnny Wheeler brought the message, reading from Romans 8th chapter, 1st through 17th verses, which was highly enjoyed by all. Br. C. D. Burrell dismissed by prayer.

Lunch.

#### SATURDAY AFTERNOON

After gathering back from lunch we enjoyed the singing of many good songs.

Report of Ladies Auxiliary:

1. Unity Church, Sylacauga —	
On Roll .....	10
Sick Calls .....	681
Hospital Calls .....	274
Trays Carried .....	27
Fruit Baskets Given .....	15
Personal Flowers Given .....	28
Given to Charity .....	\$221.17



Name	Address	No. Churches Pastored	No. Sermons Preached	No. Funerals Conducted	No. Baptized	No. Revivals Assisted In	No. Marriages Performed	No. Miles Traveled	Amt. of Offering Rev'd	Amt. of Ministerial Work
Rev. Odell Harris	808 Ogletree St. Sylacauga, Ala.	1	138	4	7	5	1		\$2,443.00	
Rev. Samuel A. Cole	Powhatan, Ala. P. O. Box 34		35				2	400		\$ 25.00
Rev. Arthur Barker	1565 Tuscaloosa Ave. B'ham, Ala.	2	114	2		3	2		\$ 922.10	
Rev. J. L. Spradley	Pell City, Ala.	1	75	1	2	1				
Rev. H. E. Hewitt	Pell City, Ala.		53					285		
Rev. Dee Hollis	Pell City, Ala.		125	1	2	4		6,000	\$ 30.00	
Rev. J. A. Barrones	Rt. 1 Box 180-F Anniston, Ala.	1	98	1	8	2	3	1,000	\$ 520.00	\$ 2.00
Rev. Raymond Allred	Jasper, Ala. Rt. 1		54			1			\$ 20.00	\$ 25.00
Rev. Geo. W. Cockran	1216 N. 22nd St. B'ham, Ala.		22			2			\$ 30.00	\$ 45.00
Rev. C. B. Snelling	1616 Oxmore Road B'ham, Ala.		35			1				
Rev. H. M. Hollis	Pell City, Ala.		31		2		1		\$ 4.00	
Rev. A. A. Webster	2204 Ave. F. Ensley, Ala.		156			2		7,800	\$ 200.00	\$260.00
Rev. James Elmore	1221 19th St. S. W. B'ham, Ala.	1	95	2		1	2	5,000	\$ 817.45	
Rev. P. W. Stewart	Pell City, Ala.		14			1		200		\$ 10.00
Rev. C. D. Burrell	Oakman Ala. Box 611		40						\$ 15.92	
Rev. J. R. Martin	Jasper, Ala. Rt. 1 Box 263	1	87	3	2	4			\$ 213.77	
Sis. Kathleen Martin	Jasper, Ala. Rt. 1 Box 263		15			2			\$ 18.00	
Rev. John C. Baxley	Bankhead Apt No. 2 Jasper, Ala.	1	70					500	\$ 25.00	\$ 40.00
Rev. C. R. Allen	Rt. 4 Box 113 B'ham, Ala.			2		2	4			
Rev. Jesse R. Drummond	Pell City, Ala.	1	141	1	8	1			\$ 416.67	
Rev. V. B. Abney	Pell City, Ala. Rt. 1	1	125	10	8	5	4		\$ 15.00	
Rev. Dalton Ford	1332 West 12th St. Anniston, Ala.		59			5		2,500	\$ 51.12	\$ 85.00
Rev. Lee Hanks	Rt. 15 Box 1142 B'ham 8, Ala.		71	1		4			\$ 323.01	



Paid on Flowers .....	18.12
Radio Program .....	12.50
Given on Flowers .....	48.81
Miscellaneous .....	107.70
Building Fund .....	50.00
Amount received .....	\$241.21
Spent .....	225.26
Balance in Treasure .....	15.95

Sister Ludie Johnston, Secretary & Treasurer  
Sister Ruby Brown President

## 2. Fairview Church, Anniston—

Charity .....	\$286.21
Flowers .....	59.30
Amount in Treasure .....	9.23
Sick Calls .....	34
Hospital Calls .....	34
Trays Carried .....	19
Personal Flower Pots .....	9
Fruit Baskets .....	2
No. Members .....	16

Sister Betty Cenner, Secretary and Treasurer

## 3. Peasant Hill gave an oral report.

## 4. Meadows Chapel gave an oral report.

Some of the Ladies gave a good talk on the Auxiliary.

There were many specials while we were waiting for the Ordaining Council report.

We, your Ordaining Council, recommend that:

1. Bro. Curtis Bailey be ordained for Deacon.
2. That the papers of Rev. W. J. Bryant be exchanged.
3. Bro. Alfred Hogan, Sr. be granted ordination papers.
4. The following be licensed to preach the Gospel for one year:

Sister Ludie Banks, and Bro. Johnny Wheeler. — Rev. Odell Harris, Chairman.

At this time they were turned over to the Ordaining Council to be ordained. After which we gave them the Christian Fellowship.

At this time an offering received for the Children's Home of \$30.31.

Moderator appointed Bro. Abney to go to Bro. Barber to receive the money for the Home Mission Board. The Body asked the Clerk to give Bro. Abney a letter of authority to receive the money.

Bro. Lee Hanks was elected Secretary and Treasurer of the Camp Building Fund.

Delegates to the State Association; Bro. Robert Shaw, Fairview; Bro. Alfred Hogan, Shiloh; Sister Lula Rice, Pleasant Hill.

All in favor of appointing someone in Bro. Barber's place for Home Mission Board. Rev. C. D. Burrell appointed.

Rev. Lee Hanks appointed to preach the message on Thursday night before the first Monday in September, 1953.

Move to adjourn.

Dismissed in Prayer by Bro. Hogan.

## SATURDAY NIGHT

Service began with singing and an altar prayer with many Christians taking part.

A good testimony service was enjoyed by all.

Rev. Joe Martin brought the message. The Lord's Supper and Feet washing followed the message which was enjoyed by all taking part.

## MINISTERS

Rev. Roscoe Gardner, Bessemer, Ala.  
Rev. Odell Harris, 808 Ogletree Street, Sylacauga, Ala.  
Rev. C. D. Burrell, Oakman, Ala.  
Rev. L. V. Pinson, Rt. 1, Atmore, Ala.  
Rev. Joe Martin, Rt. 1, Jasper, Ala.  
Rev. Raymond Allred, Rt. 1, Jasper, Ala.  
Sister Cathleene Martin, Rt. 1, Jasper, Ala.  
Sister Ludie Banks, Rt. 1, Jasper, Ala.  
Rev. A. C. Hogan, Sr., Gardendale, Ala.  
Rev. Roy Smith, Gardendale, Ala.  
Rev. Lee Hanks, Rt. 15 Box 1142, Birmingham, Ala.  
Rev. Arthur Baker, 1567 Tuscaloosa Avenue, Birmingham, Ala.  
Rev. James Elmore, 1221 19th Street, S. W., Birmingham, Ala.  
Rev. C. D. Snelling, 1616 Oxmore Road, Birmingham, Ala.  
Rev. J. F. Williams, Rt. 8 Box 640, Birmingham, Ala.  
Rev. J. H. Whitlock, Hawkins Trailer Court, Birmingham, Ala.  
Rev. S. A. Cole, Powhatan, Alabama.  
Rev. A. A. Webster, 2204 Avenue F, Ensley, Ala.  
Rev. Ray Rich, 724 12th Avenue, West Birmingham, Ala.  
Rev. Chastain Fritts, 732 40th Place, Fairfield, Ala.  
Rev. John C. Baxley, Bankhead Apts. Apt. 2, Jasper, Ala.  
Rev. C. R. Allen, Rt. 4 Box 113, Birmingham, Ala.  
Rev. George Cockron, 1112 10th place South, Birmingham, Ala.  
Rev. Calvin Howell, 303 Pierce Street, Anniston, Ala.  
Rev. Billy Jones, Jefferson Street, Anniston, Ala.  
Rev. V. B. Abney, Pell City, Ala.  
Rev. Morris Hollis, Pell City, Ala.  
Rev. Dee Hollis, Pell City, Ala.  
Rev. Perry Stewart, Pell City, Ala.  
Rev. J. L. Spradley, Pell City, Ala.  
Rev. H. E. Hewitt, Pell City, Ala.  
Rev. Dalton Ford, Pell City, Ala.  
Rev. W. E. Hollis, Pell City, Ala.  
Rev. J. E. Drummond, Pell City, Ala.  
Rev. W. J. Bryant, Pell City, Ala.  
Rev. H. H. Wheeler, 7418 1 Avenue South, Birmingham, Ala.  
Rev. Johnny Wheeler, 7418 1st Avenue South, Birmingham, Ala.  
Rev. Henry Doss, Blossburg, Ala.



## 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 elections 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.

8. No member shall absent himself from the house without leave from the Moderator.

9. All business shall be brought before the body by a motion and second and shall be disposed of by vote of body.

10. No person shall be allowed to speak more than twice on the same subject, nor more than ten minutes each time, without permission of the Moderator.

11. No brother shall be interrupted while speaking unless he departs from the subject under discussion or uses words of personal reflection.

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 without the whole delegation be present.

14. This decorum may be altered, amended or abridged if 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. We recommend that preachers coming from other associations have a certificate of standing, or a recommendation from their association.

17. 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 Testaments were given by inspiration of God, and 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; 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 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.

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.

12. PERSERVERANCE — All believers in Christ, who through



grace, persevere in holiness to end of life, have the promise of eternal salvation.

Rev. 22:17

St. John 15:6; 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.

St. John 15:6; Peter 2:20-22.

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 employment and amusement, for rest, worship, holy works and activities, and for personal communion with God.

Gen. 2:3; Exodus 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 5:9 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.



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