

MINUTES
of the
BIRMINGHAM DISTRICT
ASSOCIATION, INC.

Thirty-Third Annual Session
Held With

Community
Free Will Baptist Church
Harpersville, Alabama

September 11, 1971

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Moderator	Bro. T. E. Yarbrough
Assistant Moderator	Bro. A. H. Barnett
Clerk	Sis. Betty Gibson
Assistant Clerk	Sis. Helen Yarbrough

QUARTERLY MEETINGS

Hanks Memorial, Alton, Ala., Dec. 4, 1971
Pilgrim, Marvel, Ala., March 4, 1972
Community, Harpersville, Ala., June 3, 1972

The next session of the Association will convene with Liberty Church,
Lawley, Alabama on Saturday, September 9, 1972.

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 Father, Son, and Holy Ghost; yet as one God, infinitely wise and good, whom all intelligent creatures are supremely to love, and adore and obey. II Corinthians 8:6; Matthew 18:19.
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 Saviour 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. 4:14.
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, not otherwise provided for, as the highest welfare of men requires.
6. THE SINFULNESS OF MAN—Man was created innocent, but by disobedience fell into a state of sin and condemnation. His posterity therefore, inherit a fallen nature of such tendencies that all who come to years of accountability sin and become guilty before God. Genesis 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. I John 2:2.
8. THE TERMS OF SALVATION—The conditions of salvation are:
(1) Repentance or sincere sorrow for sin and 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. II Corinthians 7:10; Proverbs 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. II Timothy 2:4.
10. FREEDOM OF THE WILL—The human will is free and

selfcontrolled having the power to yield to the influence of the truth and the spirit or to resist them and perish. Joshua 24:15.

11. SALVATION FREE—God desires the salvation of all, the Holy Spirit strives with all, and whosoever will may come and take of the water of life freely.

12. PERSEVERENCE—All believers in Christ, who through grace persevere in holiness to the end of life, have promise of eternal salvation. Revelation 22:17; St. John 15:6; 2 Peter 1:20-22.

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 or universal obligation, and to be ministered to all true believers. St. John 15:6; 1 Peter 2:20-22; St. John 13:14.

14. TITHING—God commanded tithes and offerings in the Old Testament; Jesus Christ endorsed it in the Gospel (Matthew 23:23) and the apostle Paul said, "Upon the first day of the week, let every one lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him" I Corinthians 16:2a.

15. 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. Genesis 2:3; Exodus 20:8-11.

16. 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 will "go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life." John 5:9; Matthew 25:46.

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 all 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 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 Saviour Jesus Christ."

We will not forsake 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.

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.

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 the world. And may the God of peace sanctify us wholly, and preserve us blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

RULES OF DECORUM

1. After an introductory sermon is preached, the association shall be called to order by the moderator who presided over the last session. In case of his absence, the assistant moderator shall call the body to order, the former clerk also officiating until organized.
2. This body shall be composed of all ministers, deacons, church clerks, and delegates present from each church.
3. The officers of the association shall consist of a moderator, assistant moderator, clerk and assistant 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 to preside until reorganized and the election and installation of his successor. It shall be his duty to keep order, enforce the rules of decorum and 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 them when called upon by the body. The clerk 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 the consent of the moderator.
9. All business shall be brought before the body by the business committee and shall be disposed of by vote of the 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. No business shall be voted on without the whole delegation is present.
14. This decorum may be altered, amended or abridged at any session of the association by a majority vote of members present.
15. The minister who receives the most votes shall be moderator and the next highest, assistant moderator.
16. We recommend that all preachers and churches coming from other associations or denominations, be examined by a committee before being received into the body.
17. We recommend that we correspond and ask correspondence with other associations.
18. We recommend that all ministers and deacons attend or represent by letter before receiving a certificate of standing, and that this be strictly enforced.
19. We recommend that all ministers who reach the age of sixty be given a lifetime certificate of standing.

AMENDMENTS:

1. We recommend that if any ordained member of this body is absent for four successive meetings without provential reasons, or refuses to support this body, it be a violation of the covenant and is sufficient reason for dismissal from body.
2. Any minister not having been licensed by the Birmingham Association or quarterly meeting must carry a license from the association for one year.
3. We recommend that this body, henceforth, refuse a request from any church in this organization to ordain or license any minister or deacon who has two living wives.

MINISTERS AND DEACONS CONFERENCE RULES

1. This conference shall be known as the Minister's and Deacon's Conference of the Birmingham District Association of Free Will Baptists.
2. It shall be composed of ordained ministers and deacons of said association.
3. When in session, it shall be composed of duly elected moderator and assistant moderator and a clerk.
4. The moderator shall be elected at each session and remain in office until the election and installation of his successor. The clerk shall be elected for one year and shall be elected by the majority present.
5. To be eligible to be a standing delegate to the annual and quarterly conferences, a minister or deacon should belong to the minister's and deacon's conference.
6. Ordained ministers coming from another denomination shall be eligible to belong to the order but must serve for one year under the watch care of this body before being granted ordination papers from this body.
7. Ministers coming from another association must bring letter from his association and must be in good standing.
8. Ministers or deacons making application for membership must be the husband of one living wife, or none.

Proceedings

SATURDAY MORNING
SEPTEMBER 11, 1971

The service convened with the Proceeding Moderator, Bro. Harold Latta in charge. Bro. Jesse Drummond led the congregation in song, "O Lord Send The Power." Bro. Ira Hanks led Congregation in prayer. The moderator, reading from Psalm 145, verse 8. He explained the meaning of being Christ-like and slow to anger. The altar prayer was led by Bro. Jr. Gibson, followed by a congregation song led by Bro. Jesse Drummond. The clerk declared the association in order. The moderator elected the reading committee. The letters from each church were read. Motion to accept the letters as read was Bro. Ira Hanks. Motion to second was made by Bro. Gene Graham.

The election for new clerks was held open for nomination. Bro. Jesse Drummond made motion to retain both the clerk and assistant clerk. Bro. Ira Hanks seconded the motion. Bro. T. E. Yarbrough was elected moderator, and Bro. A. H. Barnett as the assistant. Bro. Harold Latta made motion to seat the delegates. Bro. Jr. Gibson seconded the motion. All committees were elected and released for business. Bro. Jimmy White was given permission to

reside with our business until a letter of recommendation from another association. Bro. Jesse Drummond was elected by the devotional committee to bring the 11 o'clock message. The moderator called for a short recess. The service reconvened with Sis. Barnett and Sis. Tillery leading the congregation in song. Bro. Jesse Drummond delivered a wonderful message enjoyed by all. His reading from the 8th chapter of St. John. Sin was the subject. Bro. Howard Coshatt dismissed with prayer for the lunch hour.

SATURDAY EVENING

The service begun with Sis. Louise Barnett leading the congregation in song. Bro. Jr. Gibson led in prayer. An offering of \$40.82 was taken for Bro. George Davis, pastor of the Community Church who had gone under surgery and unable to attend the meeting. Sis. Barnett led the congregation in song while an offering of \$21.57 was taken for the Children's Home.

Bro. Hubert Graham led the testimonial service, reading from the 5th chapter of Matthew. There were many wonderful testimonies. A special song, "Cleanse Me" was sung by a trio from Hanks Memorial Church. All of the reports from the committees were given, and voted on by proper vote. The moderator called for a short recess, followed by a congregation song led by Sis. Barnett. Bro. Jr. Gibson was appointed by the moderator to co-sign checks with Bro. Ira Hanks on the Camp Ground Fund. A standing ovation was given for the ladies of the church for the wonderful lunch. Motion was made to adjourn. Dismissal prayer by Bro. Eulas Partain.

MINISTERS AND DEACONS CONFERENCE
Sept. 10, 1971
Community Church
Harpersville, Alabama

The conference was called to order by the acting moderator, Bro. Jesse Drummond. Bro. and Sis. Curtiss Fuller and daughter sang a couple of special songs. Bro. Drummond called for fellowship. Bro. Gene Dawson led the congregation in song. Motion was made by Bro. Ira Hanks that a new moderator be elected for the following year. The motion was seconded by Bro. Shackelford. Bro. Jesse Drummond was elected by the body for the moderator, and Bro. Ira Hanks as the assistant. All of the visitors were welcomed by the moderator. Invitation for new membership was given. Bro. Jimmy White and Bro. Hubert Graham joined the conference and were accepted by the body. After a congregational song, the moderator called for the reading of the minutes of the last meeting. Minutes were accepted as read by the body.

New Business was called for by the moderator. Motion was made that each church recommend and request a certificate of standing for each minister and deacon. After reading scripture from the 5th chapter of

Matthew, the moderator elected Bro. Hubert Graham to deliver the message of the hour. His message was from Matthew 27:19. Motion was made for nomination of new clerk for following year. The body voted to retain the same clerk. Bro. Howard Coshatt was appointed to bring the message for the next session of conference. Motion was made to adjourn. Bro. Harold Latta dismissed with prayer.

Bro. E. M. McDaniel
Clerk and Treasurer

The next session of this conference will convene with the Liberty Church at Lawley, Alabama on Friday evening, September 8, 1972, 7:30 p.m.

Amount in the Ministers and Deacons fund is \$163.00.

MINISTERS ROLE 1971

Bro. Joe Martin
Bro. G. H. Latta
Bro. Howard Coshatt
Bro. John Tillery
Bro. Gene Dawson
Bro. C. C. Fuller
Bro. J. T. White
Bro. Elton Keith
Bro. George Davis
Bro. O. C. Thomas
Bro. Hubert Graham

Ministers with Life time certificates:

Bro. I. L. Hanks
Bro. Jesse Drummond

DEACONS ROLE 1971

Bro. John Shackelford
Bro. Jr. Gibson
Bro. A. C. Northcutt
Bro. Henry Pickett
Bro. Leroy Pardue
Bro. Ralph Boyles
Bro. M. C. Brown
Bro. J. R. Martin
Bro. Eulas Partain
Bro. E. M. McDaniel
Bro. A. H. Barnett
Bro. Donald Vick

Bro. Eugene Taylor
Bro. Vernon Taylor

DELEGATES REPRESENTED

Community

Sis. Evelyn Davis
Sis. Donna Gibson
Bro. Leverne Gibson
Sis. Plumer Barber

Meadows Chapel

Sis. Hattie Hurst
Sis. Ora Ramey
Sis. Lizzie Mis Kelly
Sis. Kathy Graham
Sis. Cheryl Graham

Bonita Park

Sis. Nettie Cline
Sis. Lottie Wells
Sis. Marjorie Williams
Sis. Deltha Jackson

Cedar Grove

Sis. Ruth Vick
Sis. Henrietta Latta
Sis. Aline Spurgeon
Bro. Dalton Vick
Bro. Douglas Spurgeon

Jefferson Park

Sis. M. C. Brown
Sis. Bell
Bro. Bell

Hanks Memorial

Sis. Lynda Mullins
Sis. Vickie Mayo
Sis. Jerry Pylant
Sis. Nell Coshatt
Bro. Cecil Henderson
Sis. Louise Barnett

Unity

Bro. Scott
Sis. Scott
Sis. Sandra Scott

Liberty

Sis. Delphia Langford
Sis. Roberta Wallace
Sis. Reba Hoppes
Sis. Clara Smith

Pleasant Hill

Sis. Shelby White
Sis. Kathy Banks
Bro. Thomas Dooley
Bro. Coleman Burton

Pilgrim

Sis. Inez Kitchens
Sis. Jewell Goggins
Bro. A. B. Pratt

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Reading Committee: Sis. Louise Barnett and Sis. Aline Partain

Devotional: 11 o'clock message—Bro. Jesse Drummond.

Sis. Plumer Barber
Sis. Mullins
Sis. Hattie Hurst
Sis. Ora Ramey
Sis. Aline Spurgeon

Sunday School: We, the Sunday School Committee believe that if each teacher is a true Christian, he or she will strive ever harder to teach the word of God to those little ones entrusted to them, that they might grow and prosper, and enjoy the live blessings of God.

Sis. Donna Gibson
Sis. Lizzie Mis Kelly
Bro. Douglas Spurgeon

Temperance: We the Temperance Committee believe we should be temperant in all things we undertake to do and with God's help we can be.

Sis. Vickie Mayo
Bro. Charles Gibson
Sis. Modera Graham

Auditing: We, the Audit Committee, have examined the clerks book and our findings are as follows: The computation of the amounts shown as received and paid out are accurate for the figures as posted; however, we have no means of determining accuracy of posted amounts in columns of receipts and the amounts paid out.

Sis. Jerry Pylant
Sis. Minnie Pickett
Bro. Johnny Scott

Deceased: We, the Deceased Committee are sad to report the loss of two members of our association. They are Sis. Maggie Lawley from Pilgrim Church, and Sis. "Ma" Bailey from Hanks Memorial Church. They will be missed by us, as well as by their families.

Sis. Shelby White
Sis. Kathy Banks
Sis. Delphia Langford

Business:

Item No. 1—We, the Business Committee recommend that two men should handle and have authority to write checks on the Camp Ground Fund.

Item No. 2—We recommend that Bro. Joe Banks be turned over to the Ordaining Council.

Bro. M. C. Brown
Bro. O. C. Thomas
Bro. J. U. Keeton
Bro. Jr. Gibson
Bro. E. M. McDaniel

Ordaining: We, the Ordaining Council have found Bro. Joe Banks worthy to be licensed to preach the gospel for one year.

Bro. Gene Graham
Bro. Eulas Partain
Bro. Howard Coshatt
Bro. Jesse Drummond
Bro. J. T. White

The following motions and seconds to accept reports are as listed:

Sunday School—Motion to accept by Bro. Latta, seconded by Bro. Vick.

Temperance—Motion to accept by Bro. Barnett, seconded by Bro. Coshatt.

Auditing—Motion to accept by Bro. Ramey, seconded by Bro. Latta.

Deceased—Motion to accept by Bro. Coshatt, seconded by Bro. Martin.

Business—Motion to accept the full report and dispose of by each item, was made by Bro. Latta, seconded by Bro. Dawson. Item No. 1—Motion to accept by vote of the full body. Item No. 2—Motion to accept by Bro. Latta, seconded by Bro. Martin.

Ordaining—Motion to accept by Bro. Latta, seconded by Bro. Martin.

CAMP GROUND REPORT, 1971

Bro. I. L. Hanks, Chairman

Amount brought forward	\$1970.54
Received from Unity Church	22.00
Received from Pleasant Hill	25.00
Received from Meadows Chapel	111.00
Total	\$2128.54

Paid out for Grading	\$363.75
Paid out for blocks	127.79
Paid out to Coosa Valley	25.00
	\$516.54

Balance in Camp Ground Fund \$1612.00

FINANCIAL REPORT OF THE CLERK

Received 1970-71	\$138.07
Brought forward	180.00
Association Fees	192.00
Quarterly Meeting Fees	2.80
Sale of Treatise	80.54
Children's Home	\$593.41
Total	

Paid Out 1970-71	\$ 60.00
State Association Fees	139.58
National F.W.B. Printing Service	15.92
Material and Postage	80.54
Children's Home	50.00
Clerk (Assn.)	15.00
Asst. Clerk (assn.)	15.00
Clerk (Quarterly Meeting)	15.00
Asst. Clerk (Quarterly Meetings)	\$391.04
Total	

Total Received	\$593.41
Total Paid Out	391.04
Balance	\$202.37

Building Committee for Camp Ground

Bro. I. L. Hanks—Chairman
Bro. Curtiss Sewill
Bro. Clyde Hood
Bro. Junior Gibson
Bro. T. E. Yarbrough

Trustees for Camp Ground

Bro. I. L. Hanks
Bro. G. H. Latta
Bro. Junior Gibson

Board of Peers

Bro. Curtiss Sewill—Chairman
Bro. Clyde Hood
Bro. Gene Graham
Bro. Eulas Partain
Bro. A. H. Barnett

Trustee to Children's Home

Bro. A. H. Barnett

ORDER OF CHURCH CONFERENCE:

1. Call for peace and fellowship of church.
2. Opportunity for new membership.
3. Invite visitors to sit 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.

Church	Clerk	Pastor	Paid Pastor	Members	Members Rec'd	Members Dismissed
Jefferson Park	Sis. Lucy Adams P.O. Box 6711 Irondale, Ala.	Bro. Curtiss Fuller 3703 4th Ave. So. Birmingham, Ala.	\$ 522.00	34	0	0
Pleasant Hill	Sis. Aline Partain Rte. 1, Box 278 Jasper, Ala.	Bro. Joe Martin Rte. One Jasper, Ala.	\$1,130.00	137	33	2
Liberty	Sis. Dorothy Foster Rte. Two Centerville, Ala.	Bro. Johnnie Tillery Rte. One Jemison, Ala.	\$1,757.52	60	4	1
Hanks Memorial	Sis. Opal Henderson P.O. Box 344 Alton, Ala.	Bro. Howard Coshatt 7827 6th Ave. No. Birmingham, Ala.	\$1,785.00	49	11	1
Community	Sis. Betty Gibson P.O. Box 182 Vincent, Ala.	Bro. George Davis Rte. One, Box 215A Sterrett, Ala.	\$ 643.91	88	11	0
Cedar Grove	Sis. Betty Vick General Delivery Columbiana, Ala.	Bro. Marlin Hodgens Chelsea, Ala.	\$ 657.61	30	2	0
Unity	Sis. Christine Scott Rte. 2 - Box 36 Jemison, Ala.	Bro. Nathaniel Dennis Clanton, Ala.	\$ 113.15	44	0	4
Meadows Chapel	Sis. Modera Graham Rte. 1 - Box 140 Graysville, Ala.	Bro. G. H. Latta Rte. 3 - Box 169D Leeds, Ala.	\$1,470.00	30	1	0
Bonita Park	Sis. Barbara Jones Rte. 2 - Box 687B Trussville, Ala.	Bro. Hubert Graham	\$ 360.00	42	5	3
Pilgrim	Sis. Minnie Pickett Rte. One Marvel, Ala.	Bro. Eugene Howard Rte. One Sterrett, Ala.	\$1,250.00	30	6	1