



**MINUTES
of the
BIRMINGHAM DISTRICT
ASSOCIATION, INC.**

**Thirty-Fourth Annual Session
Held With
Liberty Free Will Baptist Church
Lawley, Alabama**



September 9, 1972



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Moderator..... Bro. George Davis
Assistant Moderator..... Bro. G. H. Latta
Clerk..... Bro. J. R. Chapman
Assistant Clerk..... Sis. John Tillery

The Annual Quarterly Meeting will be held at the Meadows Chapel Church at Blossburg, Ala. on March 3, 1973.

The Annual Association will be held at the Unity Freewill Baptist Church, Thorsby, Ala. on Sept. 8, 1973.

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 9, 1972

The service convened with the Proceeding Moderator, Bro. T. E. Yarbrough in charge. The service then opened with altar prayer. Sis. Barnett and Sis. Davis led the congregation in song, "Victory In Jesus", with Sis. Tillery at the piano. The Moderator spoke briefly on the importance of the meeting and the duties of the day.

The Reading Committee was elected, the letters were read and accepted by the body. All delegates were seated.

The Moderator for the coming year was elected - which was Bro. George Davis, and the Assistant Moderator was Bro. G. H. Latta. The Clerk elected for the coming year was Bro. J. R. Chapman and the Assistant Clerk was Sis. John Tillery.

All of the Committees were appointed and released for duty.

Bro. Eugene Howard was appointed by the Devotional Committee to bring the 11 o'clock message. The congregation was led in song by Sis. Barnett and Sis. Davis. Bro. Howard delivered a wonderful message reading from 1st chapter of Ephesians, 3rd chapter of John and 20th chapter of Revelation, 10th verse. Stressing the thought that we should take up our

cross daily and love Jesus, keeping His Commandments, because every man will be judged according to his own works-The message was enjoyed by all.

After an invitation song, Bro. Davis invited the congregation to stay for lunch. Bro. Hanks dismissed in prayer.

SATURDAY EVENING

The meeting reconvened with several congregational songs led by Sis. Barnett and Sis. Davis, with Sis. Tillery at the piano. The quartet from Pleasant Hill sang some special songs that were enjoyed by all. The Business Committee returned and gave report. The report was disposed of item by item and voted on with proper votes. Bro. Arline Dawson made acknowledgements to the Association for being absent from the meetings. It was recommended and voted on to drop the personal conflict concerning Bro. Dawson and Bro. Hanks.

The Association voted to have two meetings yearly including the Association. While the congregation sang, an offering for the Children's Home was taken. \$36.51.

The Moderator delivered a short sermon and then led a testimony service. There were several testimonies telling of God's blessings.

The Ordaining Council returned with report to accept all candidates to be licensed and ordained. Bro. Drummonds gave the Charge to the candidates while the Ordaining Committee laid on hands. The hand of Christian fellowship was extended to each candidate and wives.

After the Clerk read the deeds to the Camp Ground, Bro. Hanks gave the financial report of the Camp Ground. Bro. Hanks then offered the Association \$7,000.00 for the Camp Ground property, or would lend the same amount to the Association toward the building on the Camp Ground. The body moved and seconded the financial report. Bro. Barnett gave a report on the Children's Home. He encouraged everyone to become a foster parent.

Bro. Gibson and Bro. Yarbrough resigned from the Building Committee.

Bro. John Tillery was elected Moderator for the next Association and Bro. G. H. Latta as the Assistant.

The Ladies of the Church were acknowledged for the wonderful lunch served at the noon hour. Motion to adjourn.

MINISTERS AND DEACONS CONFERENCE September 8, 1972 LIBERTY CHURCH Lawley, Alabama

The Conference was called to order by the Acting Moderator, Bro. Jessie Drummond. Bro. Gene Dawson led the congregation in song, followed by an altar prayer. The Moderator called for fellowship one with another.

Bro. G. H. Latta was elected for Moderator and Bro. Gene Dawson as Assistant. Bro. J. R. Chapman was elected as Clerk.

Invitation was open for new members. Bro. Grady Scott and Bro. Douglas Scott joined the Conference and were given the right hand of fellowship.

Minutes of the last meeting were read and accepted by the body.

BUSINESS

A motion was made to elect the Moderator for the coming year. A motion was made to amend Rule No. 4 in order to accept the new motion.

A motion was made and voted on properly that the Ministers and Deacons were to give their fees to the Clerk of the Association for the Certificates of Standing.

Bro. George Davis was appointed to bring the message at the next meeting.

Bro. Coshatt delivered the message, taking his text from the Book of Acts. It was a wonderful sermon, enjoyed by all.

Bro. G. H. Latta was elected for the Moderator of the Conference for the next meeting, and Bro. H. R. Graham was elected the Assistant Moderator.

Motion to adjourn.

Bro. J. R. Chapman
Clerk

The next session of the Conference will convene with the Unity Freewill Baptist Church, Thorsby, Alabama on September 7, 1973, 7:30 P.M.

The amount in the Ministers' and Deacons' Fund is \$195.00.

MINISTERS' ROLL 1972

Bro. Eltion Keith
Bro. J. T. White
Bro. C. C. Fuller
Bro. Joe Martin
Bro. Ronald Chapman
Bro. G. H. Latta
Bro. C. W. Sewell
Bro. John Tillery
Bro. Gene Dawson

Bro. Arline Dawson
Bro. H. R. Graham
Bro. George Davis
Bro. Eugene Howard
Bro. Obrey Davis
Bro. A. L. Veneable
Bro. George Cline
Bro. H. W. Coshatt

MINISTERS WITH LIFE TIME CERTIFICATES

Bro. I. L. Hanks

Bro. Jesse Drummonds

DEACONS' ROLL 1972

Bro. E. M. McDaniel
Bro. Grady Scott
Bro. Douglas Scott
Bro. A. H. Barnett
Bro. J. D. Shackerford
Bro. Eulas Partain
Bro. Vernon Taylor
Bro. Joe Banks

Bro. J. R. Martin
Bro. Eugene Taylor
Bro. Ralph Foster
Bro. H. E. Ramey
Bro. Gene Graham
Bro. J. R. Gibson
Bro. Ralph Boyles

DEACONS WITH LIFE TIME CERTIFICATES

Bro. J. U. Keeton

Bro. Virgil Foster

Bro. Leroy Pardue

DELEGATES REPRESENTED:

Meadows Chapel

Sis. Henreitta Latta
Sis. Joyce Fowler
Bro. Frank Fowler
Sis. Bessie Aldridge
Sis. Kathy Graham

Pleasant Hill

Bro. Von Tidwill
Sis. Pam Phillips
Bro. Ronnie Barton

Pilgrim

Sis. Betty Daily
Sis. Mary Ellen Roman
Sis. Jewell Goggins
Sis. Beatrice Howard

Liberty

Sis. Mary Chapman
Sis. Fronse O'Neal
Sis. Mablene Crow
Bro. Garland Cash

Hanks Memorial

Sis. Lynda Mullins
Bro. Ronnie Coshatt
Sis. Vickie Mayo
Sis. Nell Coshatt
Sis. Earline Womack
Sis. Cindy LeCroy

High Point

Bro. Buck Leathers
Sis. Louise Leathers
Sis. Bessie Drummonds

Unity

Sis. Dolly Ford
Sis. Margie Nobles
Sis. Millie Adams
Sis. Geneva Henderson
Sis. Willodean Scott

Community

Bro. Wayne Allred
Sis. Jean Allred
Sis. Comie Hatcher

Jefferson Park

Sis. Vera Brown
Bro. Steve Lowery
Bro. Ricky Lowery

Bonita Park

Bro. Woody
Sis. Woody
Bro. Brown
Sis. Peggy Woody
Bro. Justice
Sis. Justice

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Reading Committee: Sis. Tressa Fuller; Sis. Crola Smith

Devotional Committee: Bro. Eugene Howard for the 11 o'clock message.

Bro. Sewill
Bro. Coshatt
Sis. Scott
Bro. Fowler
Bro. Allred

Sunday School Committee: We, the Sunday School Committee suggest more Bible Study, More Bible Literature for the pre-school children. To encourage more to attend Sunday School and give an attendance award to the small children.

Sis. Mary Chapman
Sis. Dolly Ford
Sis. Joyce Fowler

Temperance Committee: We, the Temperance Committee recommend we be temperate in all things, and to put God first, and other things will fall in place.

Sis. Roman
Sis. Allred
Sis. Phillips

Auditing Committee: We, the Auditing Committee have examined the Clerk's books 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. Vicki Mayo
Sis. Noble
Sis. Goggins

Deceased Committee: We, the Deceased Committee, are sorry to report the loss of six members of our Association from the following churches: Hanks Memorial, Meadows Chapel, Pleasant Hill, Pilgrim Rest, Liberty, Unity. They will be missed by the people in the Association as well as by their families. We pray God will bless each family in the loss of their loved ones.

Sis. Millie Adams
Sis. Beatrice Howard
Bro. Ronnie Barton

Business Committee:

Item No. 1: We, the Business Committee feel that Bro. Arline Dawson should give his acknowledgements to the Association. Item No. 2: We, recommend that Bro. Jessie Womack be turned over to the Ordaining Council for license. Item No. 3: We recommend that Bro. Ronald Chapman and Bro. Joe Banks be turned over to the Ordaining Council and be ordained for the Ministry. Item No. 4: We recommend that Bro. Ralph Foster and Bro. Coleman Burton be turned over to the Ordaining Council to be ordained as a Deacon. Item No. 5: We recommend that the Moderator be elected for the next Association at the end of this session. Item No. 6: We recommend that the Board of Peers go and talk to Bro. James Thomas concerning his ordaining papers since he has joined another denomination. Item No. 7: We recommend that we have three quarterly meetings as we have had in the past.

Bro. John Tillery (Chairman)
Bro. Elton Keith
Bro. Brown
Bro. Martin
Bro. Barnett

Ordaining Committee: We, the Ordaining Council Have found Bro. James R. Chapman and Billy Joe Banks worthy to be ordained to preach the Gospel, Bro. Ralph Foster and Bro. Coleman Burton to be ordained as Deacons, and Bro. J. H. Womack to be licensed to preach the Gospel for one year.

Bro. Jessie Drummond, (Chairman)
Bro. Sewill
Bro. Eulas Partain
Bro. H. W. Coshatt
Bro. Arline Dawson

CAMP GROUND REPORT
Bro. Ira L. Hanks—Chairman

Amount Brought Forward.....	\$1,453.78
Received From Sis. Hurst.....	10.00
Total.....	\$1,463.78

Balance In Camp Ground Fund..... \$1,463.78

FINANCIAL REPORT OF THE CLERK

Received 1971-1972

Brought Forward.....	\$251.56
Association Fees.....	150.00
Quarterly Meeting Fees.....	200.00
Sale of Treatise.....	.70
Childrens' Home.....	73.44
Total Received.....	\$626.51

Paid Out 1971-1972

State Association.....	\$ 50.00
Printing of Minutes.....	146.05
Material and Postage.....	10.46
Childrens' Home.....	73.44
Clerk (Assn.).....	50.00
Assistant Clerk (Assn.).....	15.00
Clerk (Quarterly Meeting).....	15.00
Assistant Clerk (Quarterly Meeting).....	15.00
Total Paid Out.....	\$374.95

Total Received.....	\$626.51
Total Paid Out.....	374.95
Balance.....	\$251.56

Building Committee For Camp Ground:

Bro. I. L. Hanks—Chairman
Bro. Curtis Sewill
Bro. Clyde Hood

Board of Peers:

Bro. Clyde Hood, Chairman
Bro. Gene Graham
Bro. Eulas Partain
Bro. A. H. Barnett

Trustees For Camp Ground:

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

Trustee To Childrens' 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
Pleasant Hill	Sis. Aline Partain Rt. 1 Box 278 Jasper, Ala.	Bro. Joe Martin Rt. 1 Jasper, Ala.	\$1,400.00	137	4	4
Liberty	Dorothy Foster Rt. 2 Centreville, Ala.	Bro. Johnnie Tillery Rt. 1 Jemison, Ala.	\$1,544.94	98	6	4
Meadows Chapel	Sis. Modera Graham Rt. 1 Box 140 Graysville, Ala.	Bro. G. H. Latta Rt. 3 Box 169-D Leeds, Ala.	\$1,530.00	41	10	1
Hanks Memorial	Sis. Opal Henderson P. O. Box 344 Alton, Ala.	Bro. Howard Coshatt 7827 6th Ave. No. Birmingham, Ala.	\$1,790.00	62	14	1
Jefferson Park	Sis. Bertha Glass Rt. 4 Box 816 Birmingham, Ala.	Bro. Curtiss Fuller 370 34th Ave. So. Birmingham, Ala.	\$ 490.00	96	46	4
Bonita Park	Sis. Deltha Jackson Rt. 2 Box 687 Trussville, Ala.	Hubert R. Graham 324 19th Court Circle Birmingham, Ala.	-0-	46	2	0
Community	Sis. Betty Gibson P. O. Box 182 Vincent, Ala.	Bro. George Davis Rt. 1 Box 215-A Sterrett, Ala.	\$ 692.49	78	4	1
Unity	Willard Binion Thorsby, Ala.	Willard Scott Thorsby, Ala.	\$ 132.00	63	0	3
High Point	Sis. Bessie Drummonds 502 Morgan St., N.E. Leeds, Ala.	Bro. Jesse Drummonds 502 Morgan St., N.E. Leeds, Ala.	\$ 280.00	28	2	0
Pilgrim	Sis. Minnie Pickett Rt. 1 Marvel, Ala.	Bro. Eugene Howard Rt. 1 Sterrett, Ala.	\$1,795.00	31	5	2