



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

**THIRTY-FIFTH ANNUAL SESSION**

**Held With**  
**UNITY FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH**

**Thorsby, Alabama**

**SEPTEMBER 8, 1973**



*In Remembrance*

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

**Thirty-Fifth Annual Session**  
**Held With**  
**UNITY FREEWILL BAPTIST CHURCH**

**Thorsby, Alabama**

**September 8, 1973**

Moderator .....Bro. Johnny Tillery  
Assistant Moderator.....Bro. G. H. Latta  
Clerk.....Bro. J. R. Chapman  
Assistant Clerk.....Bro. Willard Benion

The Semi-Annual Meeting will be held at Hanks Memorial Church at Alton,  
Alabama, March 2, 1974.

The Annual Association will be held at Pleasant Hill Church at Jasper,  
Alabama September 7, 1974.



## 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 8, 1973

The service convened with Bro. Johnnie Tillery as Moderator. Bro. Tillery spoke briefly on the importance of the Conference; then read from the Book of Psalms. An altar prayer was given and many requests for prayer were spoken. The Church sang "Amazing Grace."

The Clerk declared the Church in Conference. The Moderator appointed Sister Barnett and Sister Eskrige Langford for the Reading Committee. The letters were read. Brother George Davis made the move to accept the letters; Brother Howard seconded. The delegates were seated and all visitors welcomed.

The motion was made to obtain the same clerk and Assistant Clerk. Sister Tillery declined from Assistant Clerk. Brother Willard Benion was elected for the Assistant Clerk for 1973.

All the Committees were appointed and released for duty.

The Devotional Committee elected Brother Eugene Howard to bring the eleven o'clock message.

A five minute recess was given. After the recess a song was sung—"I'll Fly Away."

After the song, Brother Howard came forth to bring the message, taking his text from St. John, Chapter 1, Verse 1, St. John, Chapter 3 Verses 16-17. Brother Howard brought a wonderful message about "Preach the Truth and Stand True to God." After the message a song was sung "What A Friend We Have In Jesus". Brother Womack prayed the benediction for the lunch hour.

### SATURDAY AFTERNOON

The service reconvened with a song and a prayer and a song led by Brother Drummonds. A special was sung by Sister Barnett, Sister Henderson and Sister Pylant.

The Committees were called for their reports. The Business Committee reported and disposed of item by item and they were voted on by the proper votes.

A song was sung by the church, "Count Your Blessings". Bro. Joe Dawson and the Traveling Aires from Vincent, Alabama sang several wonderful songs. Brother Franklin sang two specials. Everyone enjoyed the wonderful singing.

After the singing a testimony service was given and there were many wonderful testimonies, giving thanks to God. Brother George Davis and wife sang some wonderful songs which were enjoyed by everyone.

Report from Deceased Committee—Cedar Grove was the only Church that had lost loved ones. The Church stood and Brother Sewell led in prayer

The Ordaining Committee reported to ordain all men. Brother Drummonds was appointed to give the charge. A right hand of fellowship was given to the ordained men and their wives.

Brother Hanks gave his report on the Camp Grounds.

The Children's Home still needs help from each Freewill Baptist Church to maintain the expense of the home. Brother Troy Aaron was appointed for the Trustee of the Children's Home.

Brother Womack was appointed to take Brother Drummond's place on the Ordaining Council.

A standing ovation was given to the ladies of the Church for the fine lunch they served.

Delegates for the State Association were elected. Brother Joe Dawson was elected for the next Association.

Motion was made to adjourn.



## MINISTERS' ROLL FOR 1973

Rev. Johnny Tillery  
Rev. Gene Dawson  
Rev. Howard W. Coshatt  
Rev. Curtis W. Sewell  
Rev. Donald E. Mayo  
Rev. Amos Ragsdale  
Rev. Jessie Womack  
Rev. Eugene Howard  
Rev. Eltion Keith  
Rev. Arline Dawson

Rev. Willard Scott  
Rev. Dauvard Scott  
Rev. J. R. Chapman  
Rev. George Davis  
Rev. G. H. Latta  
Rev. H. R. Graham  
Rev. Joe Martin  
Rev. Billy J. Banks  
Rev. J. T. White

## LIFE TIME CERTIFICATES

Rev. I. L. Hanks  
Rev. Jesse Drummonds

## DEACONS' ROLL FOR 1973

Brother Ralph Foster  
Brother J. D. Shackerford  
Brother. Taylor Terry  
Brother E. M. McDaniel  
Brother Donald Vick  
Brother A. J. Davis  
Brother Henry Pickett

Brother Willard Benion  
Brother Grady Scott  
Brother Douglas Scott  
Brother Jr. Gibson  
Brother H. E. Ramey  
Brother Gene R. Graham

## LIFE TIME CERTIFICATES

Brother J. V. Keton  
Brother Virgil Foster  
Brother Leroy Pardue

## DELEGATES REPRESENTED

### Liberty

Sister Roberta Wallace  
Sister Mary Chapman  
Sister Eskridge Langford  
Brother Raymond Chapman

### Bonita Park

Sister Horace Gomer  
Brother Horace Gomer  
Brother Arthur Ingram  
Sister Jean Justice

### Cedar Grove

Brother James Lee  
Sister Lena Lee  
Brother Dalton Vick  
Sister Ruth Vick  
Sister Cathleen Davis

### Community

Sister Evelyn Davis  
Sister Ada Nixon  
Sister Violet Spates  
Brother John Spates

### Hanks Memorial

Sister Jeny Pylant  
Sister Louise Barnett  
Sister Alice Ragsdale  
Sister Vickie Mayo  
Sister Beatrice Sewell

### High Point

Brother Charles Hill  
Brother Gilbert Kubes  
Sister Esteel Kubes

### Meadows Chapel

Bro. Frank Fowler  
Sister Joyce Fowler  
Sister Henrietta Latta  
Sister Ruby Gunter  
Sister Kathy Graham

### Pilgrim

Brother Larry Pickett  
Sister Bonnie Pickett  
Sister Mary Ellen Roman  
Sister Betty Daily

### Pleasant Hill

Brother Von Tidwell  
Sister Gearldine Aaron  
Brother Martin Aaron  
Brother Nathan Aaron

### Unity

Sister Henderson  
Brother Johnny Ray

Sister Mamie Ray  
Brother K. Adams

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Reading Committee**—Sister Eskridge Langford, Sister Barnett

**Devotional Committee**—Brother Eugene Howard for the eleven o'clock message.

Sister Betty Fondron  
Sister Roberta Wallace  
Sister Pickett

**Temperance Committee**—We, the Temperance Committee, recommend that we should have more temperance in our work for the Lord, as well as our work with our Brothers and Sisters in Christ and that we should work harder to win the lost.

Sister Mary Roman  
Sister Ruth Vick  
Sister Evelyn Davis



**Sunday School Committee**—We, the Sunday School Committee believe that all Church members should visit and invite more people to Sunday School and Church. We should show more interest in our Sunday School and toward our young people.

Sister Violet Spates  
Sister Bonnie Pickett  
Sister Roberta Wallace

**Auditing Committee**—We, the Auditing Committee, have examined the Church 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.

Sister Eskrige Langford  
Brother Van Tidwell  
Brother Larry Pickett

**Deceased Committee**—Cedar Grove Church lost three loved ones: Sister Ida Davis, Brother Harlin Cardwell, Brother Ermon Cardwell. They will be missed by everyone.

Sister Alice Ragsdale  
Sister Henderson  
Sister Jean Justin

**Business Committee**—Item 1: We, the Business Committee, recommend that Brother J. N. Aaron and T. N. Aaron be turned over to the Ordaining Committee and if found worthy, be ordained as Deacons. 2. We recommend that all Ministers and Deacons who have not attended the Association in two years, when able to attend, be dropped from our roll. 3. We recommend that we meet for fellowship on each quarter at different churches. 4. We recommend that the Semi-Annual Meeting be held at Hanks Memorial and the next Association be held at Pleasant Hill Church. 5. We recommend that Brother Henry Pickett be given a Life Time Certificate of Standing. 6. We recommend that Brother D. H. Fondren and Brother R. W. Reliford be turned over to the Ordaining Committee and if found worthy be ordained as Deacons. 7. We recommend that we revoke the Ordination Papers of Brother James Thomas. We recommend that we authorize the Clerk to write him a Letter of Notification and advise him to turn his papers in to the Association.

**Ordaining Committee**—We, the Ordaining Committee, have found Brother Troy Aaron, Brother Charles Nathan Aaron, Brother Donald H. Fondren, Brother R. W. Riliford worthy to be ordained as Deacons.

## CAMP GROUND REPORT

Brother Ira L. Hanks, Chairman

|  |            |
|--|------------|
| Amount Brought Forward.....                | \$1,343.15 |
| Received from Coosa Electric Company ..... | 7.61       |
| Total.....                                 | \$1,350.76 |

|                                  |            |
|----------------------------------|------------|
| Balance in Camp Ground Fund..... | \$1,350.76 |
|----------------------------------|------------|

## FINANCIAL REPORT OF THE CLERK

### Received 1972-1973

|                       |          |
|-----------------------|----------|
| Brought Forward ..... | \$251.56 |
| Association Fees..... | 150.00   |
| Quarterly Fees .....  | 100.00   |
| Sale of Treatise..... | 1.05     |
| Children's Home ..... | 53.51    |
| Total Received.....   | \$556.12 |

### Paid Out 1972-1973

|                                  |          |
|----------------------------------|----------|
| State Association Fees .....     | \$ 50.00 |
| Printing of Minutes.....         | 201.40   |
| Material and Postage .....       | 4.81     |
| Children's Home .....            | 53.51    |
| Clerk (Assn.).....               | 50.00    |
| Assistant Clerk (Assn.).....     | 15.00    |
| Clerk (Quarterly).....           | 15.00    |
| Assistant Clerk (Quarterly)..... | 15.00    |
| Total Paid Out .....             | \$404.72 |

|                     |          |
|---------------------|----------|
| Total Received..... | \$556.12 |
| Total Paid Out..... | 404.72   |
|                     | \$151.40 |

|                       |          |
|-----------------------|----------|
| Balance in Bank ..... | \$169.89 |
|-----------------------|----------|



**Building Committee for Camp Ground**

Brother I. L. Hicks, Chairman

Brother Curtis Sewell

Brother Clyde Hood

**Board of Peers**

Brother Clyde Hood, Chairman

Brother Gene Graham

Brother Eulas Partain

Brother A. H. Barnett

**Trustees for Camp Ground**

Brother I. L. Hicks

Brother Arline Dawson

Brother G. H. Latta

**Trustee to Children's Home**

Brother Troy Aaron



Put them together  
to complete the picture.

**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<br>PASTOR | MEMBERS | MEMBERS<br>REC'D | MEMBERS<br>DISMISSED |
|----------------|--|---|----------------|---------|------------------|----------------------|
| Pleasant Hill  | Sis. Aline Partain<br>Rt. 1 Box 349<br>Jasper, Ala.        | Bro. Joe Martin<br>Rt. 1<br>Jasper, Ala.                        | \$ 500.00      | 137     | 6                | 0                    |
| Liberty        | Sis. Sandra Foster<br>Rt. 1<br>Lawley, Ala.                | Bro. Johnny Tillery<br>Rt. 1<br>Jemison, Ala.                   | \$1595.00      | 96      | 4                | 3                    |
| Hanks Memorial | Sis. Opal Henderson<br>P. O. Box 344<br>Alton, Ala.        | Bro. Howard Coshatt<br>7827 6th Ave., No.<br>Birmingham, Ala.   | \$1800.00      | 62      | 13               | 3                    |
| Pilgrim        | Sis. Minnie Pickett<br>Rt. 1 Box 47<br>Marvel, Ala.        | Bro. Eugene Howard<br>Rt. 1<br>Sterrett, Ala.                   | \$1975.00      | 30      | 2                | 2                    |
| Unity          | Sis. Dorothy Brown<br>1305 8th St. N.<br>Clanton, Ala.     | Bro. Gene Dawson<br>P. O. Box 123<br>Vincent, Ala.              | \$ 663.00      | 41      | 5                | 0                    |
| Bonita Park    | Sis. Jean Justice<br>Rt. 2 Box (686-L)<br>Trussville, Ala. | Bro. Hubert Graham<br>324 19th Court Circle<br>Birmingham, Ala. | \$ 655.00      | 55      | 5                | 0                    |
| Meadows Chapel | Sis. Modera Graham<br>Rt. 1 Box 140<br>Graysville, Ala.    | Bro. G. H. Latta<br>Rt. 3 Box 16<br>Leeds, Ala.                 | \$1690.00      | 43      | 1                | 0                    |
| High Point     | Sis. Estell Kubes<br>Rt. 2 Box 681<br>Trussville, Ala.     | Bro. Jesse Drummonds<br>502 Morgan St., N.E.<br>Leeds, Ala.     | \$ 670.00      | 48      | 5                | 0                    |
| Cedar Grove    | Sis. Betty Vick<br>P. O. Box 1412<br>Columbiana, Ala.      | Bro. Jesse Womack<br>7824 9th Ave., N.<br>Birmingham, Ala.      | \$ 500.00      | 22      | 6                | 3                    |
| Jefferson Park | Sis. Bertha Glass<br>Rt. 4 Box 816<br>Birmingham, Ala.     | Bro. Curtis Fuller<br>370 34th Ave. So.<br>Birmingham, Ala.     | \$ 490.00      | 96      | 46               | 4                    |