

MINUTES
OF THE
FORTY-FIFTH ANNUAL SESSION
OF THE
Cahaba River Free Will Baptist
Association

WAS HELD WITH
THE BLOCTON CHURCH

SEPTEMBER 15, 1923.

OFFICERS:

REV. E. C. HOUSTON, Moderator
REV. E. A. HOUSTON, Assistant M. D.
J. R. WEAVER, Clerk-Treasurer

The next session of this Association will convene with
Mary's Chapel Church, Brookwood, Ala., on
Friday night before the third Sunday
in October 1924.

PROCEEDINGS

The forty fifth annual session of the Cahaba River Free Will Baptist Association convened with the Blocton Church, West Blocton Bibb County, Ala. September 15, 1923.

The house was called to order by the Clerk. The Assistant Moderator Rev. E. A. Houston conducted the devotional exercises Scripture Lesson 23 Psalm. Prayer by the Assistant Moderator. The committee on Credentials made their report which showed all letters and delegates Regular

The roll of church was called and their delegates enrolled as follows:

Pilgrim Rest— Walter Picket. Authur Houston and James Harris.

Mount Pleasant— S. B. Rodgers, R. W. Taylor, Delia Rodgers and Ellie Taylor.

Blocton— J. W. Smith and Pat Boley.

Mary's Chapel— D. Thompson, Mary Colbert and Marietta Montgomery.

On motion Rev. E. C. Houston was re-elected permanent moderator.

On motion Rev. E. A. Houston was re-elected assistant moderator

On motion J. R. Weaver was reelected Clerk and Treasurer

The moderator then declared the body ready for business and invited visiting Bretheren to seats with us.

The moderator called for corisponding messengers none presant.

The moderator declared the doors of the association opened for the reception of new churches no petitions.

The moderator appointed Bros. D Thompson and Walter Pickett with the deacons of this church as devotional committee.

The moderator appointed the following committ ees.
Reading: Authur Houston and James Harris.
Business: D. Thompson and S. B. Rodgers.

Family Religion: R. W. Taylor and Walter Pickett.
Sabbath Schools: Mary Colbert and Ellie Taylor.
Literature: Mariette Montgomery and Dellia Rodgers.
Temperance: James Harris and D. Thompson.
Deceased Members: Walter Pickett and James Harris.
Standing of the Ministry: S. B. Rodgers, R. W. Taylor and D. Thompson.
Auditing: Auther Houston and Ellie Taylor.
Resolutions: Walter Pickett and Mary Colbert.

The moderator called for the reading of the church letters.

On motion Bro. D. Thompson was re-elected chairman of the home mission committee.

On motion the moderator appointed Bro. S. B. Rodgers on the executive committee.

On motion the moderator appointed Bro. Auther Houston as delegate to the State Conference.

On motion the clerk was instructed to have 100 minutes printed.

On motion the Clerk draw on the Treasury for \$10.00 for his service.

On motion the partial report of the Business Committee was received; this report recommended that one tenth of our income be given to the LORD.

On motion this recommendation was adopted, by this body, and recommended to several composing this body.

On motion the meeting time of this was change back to Friday night before the third Sunday in October.

On motion Sister Sadie Weaver was re-elected chairman of the Educational committee.

On motion the body adjourn until 1:30 P. M.

11:00 A. M. Introductory Sermon by Rev. E. A. Houston. Text 27 Psalm 1st. verse.

1:30 P. M. the house was called to order by the clerk.

The assistant moderator Rev. E. A. Houston conducted the devotional exercises Scripture Lesson 1st. Psalm Prayer Bro. S. B. Rodgers.

The Moderator then declared the body ready for business

and invited visiting Brethren to seats with us.

On motion the next session of this body be held with May's Chapel Church Brookwood, Ala.

The moderator called for reports of the several committees. (see reports).

The moderator called for report of the committee on Resolutions. (see resolutions).

On motion we tendered our heart felt thanks to Almighty God, for manifest presence with us, Blocton church and the good people of this community for kind hospitality showed us while among them.

On motion the association adjourned to meet with Mary's Chapel Church, Brookwood Ala., on Friday at 7:30 P. M. before the third Sunday in October 1924.

REV. E. C. HOUSTON Moderator

REV- E. A. HOUSTON Asst. Mod.

J. R. WEAVER Clerk Treas.

FAMILY RELIGION

We the committee on Family Religion submit as follows:

Religion is the greatest thing a home could ever possess on earth. Religion in the home is the making of Christian men and women, it fills the children's minds with good thoughts and it prepares them for the responsibilities of life. Therefore our family altars should burn day and night,

Let us read the Bible and live its teaching and by precept and example let our children and the world see our good works and glorify our Father which is in heaven

R. W. TAYLOR Chairmad

Sabbath School

We your committee on Sabbath Schools submit as follows: We believe the Sabbath School is a grand and noble branch of God's work. It is essential to make a good live church. We believe is God's plan to bring the children unto himself. The object of Sunday School is to train little ones in the way of truth and light. There is no better place for grown people to get higher and broader views of the Bible. Let us go and take our children to Sunday School.

MARY COLBERT Chairman

Literature

We your committee on Literature submit the following:

Wholsome Literature is a blessing to home and nation. Unwholesome Literature is a curse to the home and nation. Therefore we should place before our children and people Literature that will stand the Bible test. We recommend Bible literature first and the use of our own literature and patronage of our press.

MARY ELLA MONTGOMERY Chairman
Temperance

We your committee on Temperance submit as follows:

True teperance should appeal to all men. It is first of the true christian Jesus said: Watch as well as Pray. So we as God's people should carefully study the Bible in reference to temperance and by precept and example deomon-strait to the world the worth and merit of the living God in lifting humanity from the curs of intemperance.

JAMES HARRIS Chairman

Education

We your committee on Education submit as follows:

A christan education prepares men and women for the service of God and their country. Paul said Study to show thyself approved. Apyroved of what? The wisdom of men. No but of the wisdom of God, a proper understanding of his word and will toward us. We recomend that every honest effort be made to place a christian education with in the reach of our boys and girls. Think on the goodness of God. Education for nobler things.

AUTHUR HOUSTON Chairman

Standing of Ministry

We your committee on standing of the Ministry submit as follows: We have carefully examined the character and standing of the following Ministers: Rev. E. C. Houston, E. A. Houston, T. W. Jones, W. R. Parker, W. M. Chadwick and F. R. Skelton and recomend that a certificate of good standing be granted to each for one year.

S. B. RODGERS Chairman

AUDITING COMMITTEE

We your committee, submit as follows: We have examined the books and accounts of the Clerk and Treasurer of this association and find them correctly kept and report as follows.

Receipts	\$19.50
Desbursments	\$16.75
Balance on hand Sept. 1st 1923	\$2.75
AURTHUR HOUSTON	Chairman

DECEASED MEMBERS

We your committee on deceased mimbers submit as follows: We find there has been one sister Eliza Ann Houston called from our midst. She was faithful and true to her profession. A mother in every way, always kind and good to every one she met. We can rest assured she is resting in the presence of her Lord.

WALTFR PICKETT Chairman

RESOLUTIONS

Whereas we believe it is the will of God and in keeping with our church covenant that each mimber composing our several churches, should be active in the searvice of the Lord, the work of the church and that the spiritual success of the church depends upon a live mimbership and a wide awake ministry. Therefore be it Resolved. That we as a body and as indeividuals, in the spirit of love and humanity, make every effort possible to be active in the service of the Lord

WALTER PICKETT Chairman

Standing Committee

J. M. Houston, J. P. Sextoro, S. R. Rodgers.

Corosponding Secretary—J H. Jones, Sprott, Perry, Co. Ala.

Associational Evangelist—Rev. E. C. Houston, Besmer, Ala.

MINISTERIAL ROLL

Rev. E. C. Houston,	Bessmer, Ala.
Rev. E. A. Houston,	Maylene, Ala.
Rev. T. W. Jones,	Movo, Ala.
Rev. W. R. Tarken,	Springville, Ala.
Rev. W. M. Chadwick,	Sprott, Ala.
Rev. F. R. Skelton,	Boothton, Ala.

ARTICLES OF FAITH

1. The Bible — The Scripture of the Old and New Testament were given by inspiration of God, and our infallible rule of faith and practice.

2. God— There is one living and true God, revealed in nature the Creator, Preserver and Righteous Governor of the Universe, and in the Scripture as Father, Son and Holy Ghost, yet as one God infinitely wise and good, whom all intelligent creatures are supremely to love, adore and obey.

3. Christ—Christ is God manifested 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

4. The Holy Spirit— The Scripture assign to the Holy Spirit all the attributes of God. He is the reprover, comforter, guide and sanctifier of men.

5. 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.

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 the years of accountability sin, and become guilty before God.

7. The Work of Christ—The Son of God by His incarnation. life, suffering, death and resurrection effected for

all a redemption from sin that is full and free, and is the ground of salvation by faith.

8. The Terms of Salvation—The conditions of salvation: 1. Repentance or sincere sorrow for sin and hearty reunciation of it. 2. Faith or 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.

9. Election—God determined from the beginning to save all who should comply with the condition of salvation. Hence by faith in Christ men become His elect.

10. Freedom of the Will—The human will is free and self-controlled having power to yield to the influence of the truth and spirit, or to resist them and perish.

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. Perseverance - All believers in Christ, who through grace persevere in holiness to the end of life, have promise of salvation.

13. Gospel Ordinances—Baptism or the immersion of believers in water, and the Lord's Supper, are ordinances to be perpetuated under the gospel of universal obligation, and to be administered to all true believers.

14. The Christian Sabbath—The divine law requires that one day in seven be set apart from secular employment and amusements for rest, worship, holy works and activities, and for personal communion with God.

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 ill unto the resurrection of judgement; then the wicked will "go away in to eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life." John 5:29, revised version; Matt. 25:29.

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 amusement and unholy conformity to the world; from all sanction of 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 Savior Jesus Christ." We will not forget the assembling of our selves together for church conference, public worship and the observance of the ordinances of the gospel, nor fail to pay according to our ability for the purpose of the church, of its poor, and 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 bond 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 the Gospel. We will everywhere hold Christian principles 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 Sabbath schools and evangelistic efforts for the salvation of souls and the conversion of the world. And may the God of Peace sanctify us wholly, and preserve us blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

STATISTICAL TABLE

CHURCHES	CLERKS	POST-OFFICES	PASTORS	Rec. by Baptism	Rec. by Letter	Dis. by Letter	Ex-cluded	Died	No. of Members
Pilgrim Rest	T. M. Baker	Aldrich Ala.	E. A. Houston	6		1		1	91
Mount Pleasant	J. W. Barnett	Sprott, Ala.	E. A. Houston	2	1				141
Blocton	J. R. Weaver	W. Blocton, Ala.	E. C. Houston			2			30
Mary's Chapel	J. P. Sexton	Brookwood, Ala	E. C. Houston				2		70