

MINUTES

OF THE

Seventy-Fifth Annual Session

OF THE

Cahaba River Free Will Baptist Association

CONVENED WITH

Union Hill Free Will Baptist Church

VANDIVER, ALABAMA

October 1-2-3, 1953

OFFICERS

Moderator.....Elder Robert P. Ritch
Route 3, Box 260F, Sylacauga, Alabama

Assistant Moderator.....Dewey F. Isbell
Leeds, Alabama

Clerk.....H. A. McSpadden
Rt. 9, Box 231F, Birmingham, Alabama

The 76th session of the Cahaba River Association of Free Will Baptist will meet with the Pleasant Valley Free Will Baptist Church of Chelsea, Alabama on Thursday night before the first Sunday in October, 1954

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MINISTERS REPORT

	Churches Pastored	Sermons Preached	Revivals	Baptised	Marriages	Funerals	Miles Traveled	Money Received	Expenses
Elder J. J. Staab, 2313 No. 33rd Ave., B'ham, Ala.....	1	170	2	1	0	1	1900	\$ 625.00	\$ 50.00
Elder Earl Isbell, Dunnavant, Ala.....	1	28	1	9	1	0	324	\$ 17.50	\$ 22.50
Elder R. P. Ritch, Rt. 3, Bx 260F, Sylacauga, Ala.....	0	125	7	0	0	1	2400	530.00	115.00
Elder D. F. Isbell, Leeds, Ala.....	1	160	2	5	0	0	1400	538.53	
Elder James M. Pickett, 2710 Ave. D, Ensley, Ph. 4-3097...	1	175	4	6	4	3	3000		
Elder J. W. Marlow, 700 W. 24th Ave., B'ham, Ala. 4-3097...	1	126	3	0	1	4	7000	873.00	800.00
Elder Robert Armstrong, 50 Ga. Ave., Sylacauga, Ala.....	1	108	0	3	0	0	1200	49.39	
Elder M. D. Harper, Route 1, Marvel, Alabama	3	162	3	5	3	1	10000	1060.00	300.00
Elder E. L. Isbell, Rt. 1, Sterrett, Alabama	0	32	2	0	0	0	1500	35.00	60.00
Elder L. M. Goodwin, 2307 1st Ave., No., Leeds, Ala.....	0	32	0	0	2	0			
Elder George LaShum, Route 1, Empire, Alabama	1	124		8	1	2		33.57	
Elder R. H. Howard, Route 1, Sterrett, Alabama	1	39	1	0	1	2	762	92.85	6.62
Elder John C. Baxley, 77 Harrison St., Sylacauga, Ala.....	0	51	0	0	0	0	932	27.30	19.72

PROCEEDINGS

The 75th session of the Cahaba River Association assembled with the Union Hill Free Will Baptist Church of Vandiver, Alabama.

THURSDAY NIGHT—7:00 P. M.—OCTOBER 1, 1953

Elder Dewey F. Isbell, Assistant Moderator Officiating
Song, "If We Had No Jesus," by Grady Collins.

Welcome Address by Elder Johnnie Baxley, Pastor.

A united prayer at altar led by Elder E. L. Isbell in behalf of the conference and other requests.

Song, "I'm Going Home."

Devotion by Brother Robert Parker.

Message by Elder E. L. Isbell—Subject: John 5:5 and Revelation 22:5.

Prayer.

FRIDAY MORNING—9:00 A.M.—OCTOBER 2, 1953

Song, "Take It to the Lord in Prayer."

Devotion by Elder R. P. Ritch, Moderator.

Subject: "A Cleft in the Rock." 61st Psalm. A very appropriate message and enjoyed by all present.

Prayer by Elder E. L. Isbell.

Welcome address and introduction by Elder Johnnie Baxley.

Business session of conference called to order by H. A. McSpadden, Clerk.

Songs: "Beyond the Gates" and "I Feel Like Traveling On."

Testimony service and response of delegates.

Receiving of church letters by Credential Committee.

Credential Committee report all letters in regular form and order, and report accepted.

Letters read by Elders M. D. Harper and Robert Armstrong. Letters read and accepted.

Delegates seated and visiting brethren invited to join and assist in our conference.

CHURCH DELEGATES

East Birmingham Church, Sister Sidney Brom.

Mount Pleasant, Roy L. Hodges, Peggy Jones, and Phoebe Hodgens.

Oak Grove, Sister Pearl Byrd and Mavern Pickett.

North Birmingham, Austin Hodges, Opeal Hodges, Rumell Kimbrough, and Sister H. O. Walton.

Dillworth, William Smith, Helen Moseley, Elizabeth Nesbitt.

Union Hill, Brother and Sister I. C. Howard, Hattie Parker, and Dasia Laproan.

Midway Church, Martha Knight, Laura Roberts, Alfred Roberts.

Davis Chappel, Sister Willie Coudle, Ola Howard, and Beatrice Howard.

Fairview, Theo Winslett, Louise Webb, Ora McCreless, Dorothy Goodwin.

Mount Olive, Elsie Minor, Leacy Isbell, and Joye Harris.

Pleasant Valley, Mary Kendricks, Mary Shirley, Norman Shirley.

Sylacauga, Sister Lena Brazzell, Troy Kendrick, Ethel Armstrong, and Lela Harmon.

Shady Grove, Vera Click, Pearl Hancock, and Mr. Joe Click, Jr.

Bethel, Myrtle Smitherman, Mabel Boothe, Charlie Boothe.

APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES

Devotional: Eugene Howard, Thurmond Kimbrough, and T. A. Armstrong.

Standing of the Ministry—Charles Boothe, H. T. Rogers, T. A. Armstrong.

Business—George LaShum, M. D. Harper, E. L. Isbell, Robert Armstrong, I. C. Howard.

Ordaining Council—M. D. Harper, Earl Isbell, J. C. Baxley, James Pickett, Ed Goodwin, R. H. Howard, A. M. Roberts.

Deceased Members—Mrs. H. O. Walton, Elsie Mae Minor, Vera Click, Sister M. Howard.

Family Religion—Sisters Lena Brazzell, Mary Shirley, Leasie Isbell, May Belle Boother.

Sunday School—Mary Kendrick, Dorothy Goodwin, Sister Joe Click, Sister Eugene Howard.

League—Pearl Hancock, Peggy Jones, Louise Webb.

Temperance—Myrtle Smitherman, Robert Parker, Ora McCreless, Becky Harris.

Auditing—H. W. Grice, S. T. Fowler, H. H. Blanchard, Ed Gooden.

REPORT OF DEVOTIONAL COMMITTEE

Devotion—Elder J. C. Baxley.

11:00 A. M.—Message by M. D. Harper.

Report Accepted.

Song Service: Several good songs were sung, while song, "Amazing Grace" was sung congregation joined in handshake and fellowship.

Devotional Scripture 133rd Psalm was read and a very spiritual comment on fellowship by Bro. J. C. Baxley.

11:00 A. M.—Message by Elder M. D. Harper.

Scripture: Song of Solomon, Chapters 2 and 5.

A very inspiring message on the Love of Christ for His Church. A very special prayer for Sister Whitehead who was to be operated on this morning.

12:00 A. M.—A very enjoyable time was had by all as lunch was served in grove near church.

Thanks to the good ladies of Union Hill Church.

1:30 P. M.—Woman's Auxiliary

Sister Lena Brazzell, President, called meeting to order and welcomed auxiliaries from various churches.

Scripture: 23rd Psalm ready by Mary McSpadden.

Song: "My Faith Looks Up to Thee."

Poem read, "Lead Me Good Shepherd." Comments.

Reading of Minutes.

Prayer by H. A. McSpadden.

Letters called for and read. Delegates seated.

Comments on Auxiliary work in the church by several ladies present.

Sister Brazzell offered her resignation because of ill health.

Election Of Officers

President, Louise Webb, Trussville, Route 2; 1st Vice President, Mary Ritch, Sylacauga, Route 3; 2nd Vice President, Pearl Hancock, Adamsville, Route 1; 3rd Vice President, Myrtle Smitherman, Marvel, Route 1; 4th Vice President, Mary McSpadden, Route 9, Box 231F, Birmingham; 5th Vice President, Dorothy Goodwin, Trussville, Route 2; Secretary and Treasurer, Mary Shirley, Chelsea, Route 1.

A good talk on Auxiliary by Elder R. P. Ritch, Moderator.

Adjourn.

2:30 P. M.—Report of Committees that were ready to report.

Report of Deceased Members—Secretary's Reports.

Family Religion.

League.

Sunday School.

Temperance.

Partial Report of Business.

Items No. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 referred to ordaining council.

Item No. 6—Accepted and Elder E. L. Isbell was given a Gold Life Certificate.

Announcements.

Prayer by Elder R. H. Howard.

FRIDAY NIGHT—6:00 P. M.—OCTOBER 2, 1953

Ministers Meeting

Songs by congregation, "Keep Traveling Homeward," "He Is the One for Me," "Beyond the Gates."

Prayer by Elder H. O. Walton.

Song, "If We Had No Jesus."

Special Song, "There'll Be No Sorrow," by Bro. and Sister J. W. Isbell.

Devotion by Elder Dewey Isbell. Scripture, Revelation 3:7.

Testimonies.

An earnest plea by Elder R. P. Ritch, Association Moderator, that the needs of our Children's Home be first in our mind. That the home may be well taken care of and every need supplied.

Song, "I'm Walking With My Lord."

Ministers Meeting opened for business by Elder J. W. Marlow, Moderator.

Scripture reading and prayer by Eugene Howard.

Fellowship.

A motion to omit reading of the minutes and a discussion of "How best to present and supply the financial needs of the Children's Home.

Discussion of starting new work in Eastern part of state.

New members: Johnnie C. Baxley, H. O. Walton.

Rev. R. P. Ritch spoke by appointment on "The Soul of Man." A very interesting message in which there had been much study and collecting of scriptures.

The subject of "The 1000 (one-thousand) Year Reign of Christ" for next year's discussion.

All members appointed co-workers on Home Mission Board.

A motion that the Business Committee separate ministers meeting and communion service as there was not time to have both the same night. Motion accepted.

Elder M. D. Harper elected Moderator for next session.

Prayer by Brother Frank Minor.

Ministers and Deacons present: Elders J. W. Marlow, R. P. Ritch, Dewey Isbell, E. L. Isbell, Earl Isbell, M. D. Harper, R. H. Howard, Robert Armstrong, Johnnie C. Baxley, H. H. Blanchard, Robert Parker, H. O. Walton, Hutt Isbell. Visitor: Elder Clark Townsend.

Deacons: Thurmond Kimbrough, A. L. Harmon, Henry Pickett, W. N. Hodges, H. T. Rogers, Charles Boothe, I. C. Howard, Eugene Howard, Elvie White, Frank Minor, J. W. Isbell, Billy Britton.

8:30 P. M.

Special song by J. W. Isbell and wife, "When Life's Race Is Run."

Message by Elder Robert Armstrong. Scripture, I John 3:1. Subject: "The Wonders of the Love of God."

Elder E. L. Isbell and R. H. Howard prepared and assisted in administering Sacraments at Communion Service.

Sacraments were administered to six men and six women on either side table at each sitting.

After Communion Service, Feet washing service was set forth with a great fellowship and oneness of spirit.

Place of delegates.

Prayer.

SATURDAY—OCTOBER 3, 1953—9:00 P. M.

Several good songs were sung.

Devotional—Psalm 103—By Moderator, Elder R. P. Ritch. An inspiring talk on Free Will Baptist doctrine and its place in the world.

Report of the Treasurer:

A motion to receive Midway Free Will Baptist Church into Annual Association. Accepted, hand of fellowship given.

Final report of devotional committee.

Devotional by H. H. Blanchard.

11:00 A. M. Message—James Pickett.

7 P. M. Message—Elder Robert Parker.
 Final report of Business Committee accepted.
 Devotional by Elder H. H. Blanchard.
 Message by Elder James Pickett. Scripture reading, Matthew 22:
 Theme—Love. A very inspiring and constructive message.
 12:00 Lunch served by ladies of the church. Was enjoyed by all
 and a very fine spirit of fellowship.
 1:00 P. M.: Song, "Keep Traveling Homeward."
 Scripture reading: Romans 8:1-11.
 Prayer by Brother Isbell.
 A motion was passed to move communion and feet washing back
 to Saturday night as there was not time on Friday night to have both
 services.
 Pleasant Valley Church of Chelsea, Route 1, Alabama, was voted
 next place of association meeting.
 Elder H. H. Blanchard was elected to succeed Elder M. D. Harper
 on executive board.
 Mary McSpadden elected State Association delegate.
 Elder R. P. Ritch elected Trustee to Children's Home.
 Elder J. W. Marlow elected to succeed himself on Home Mission
 Board.
 Auditing Committee report accepted.
 A motion to combine auditing committee and executive committee
 to get records of past treasurer. Carried.
 Report of the Standing of the Ministry accepted.
 Several songs were sung as we waited on ordaining council.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Elder R. P. Ritch, Moderator; Elder H. H. Blanchard, Assistant;
 H. A. McSpadden, Clerk; Jerold Parker, Assistant; Elder M. D. Harper,
 Treasurer.
 Ordaining Council report accepted.
 Ordaining service led by Elder James Pickett with assistance of
 other members of the council.
 Candidates given right hand of fellowship.
 Announcements.
 Expression of appreciation given to Union Hill Church and com-
 munity for service of delegates and fellowship.
 Adjourn.

MONEY RECEIVED FROM CHURCHES

Mt. Olive Church	\$ 7.20
Shady Grove	10.00
East Birmingham	5.00
North Birmingham	76.88
Dillworth	5.00
Pleasant Valley	10.00
Mt. Pleasant	(\$2.00 Home Mission) 13.10
Union Hill	(\$10.00 Children's Home) 8.00
Sylacauga	25.00
Oak Grove	5.00
Fairview	10.00
Davis Chapel	10.00
Midway	(\$5.00 Home Mission) 6.10
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Ministers Registered	14.00
Deacons Registered	19.00
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Annual Treasure	234.28
Home Mission	7.00
Children's Home Collection	40.00
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All Money Received	\$291.28

Ministers Who Registered

Elder George La Shun	\$ 1.00
Elder M. D. Harper	1.00
Elder E. L. Isbell	1.00
Elder R. H. Howard	1.00
Elder R. P. Ritch	1.00
Elder Robert Armstrong	1.00
Elder Johnnie C. Baxley	1.00
Elder J. W. Marlow	1.00
Elder Hut Isbell	1.00
Elder H. O. Walton	1.00
Elder Earl Isbell	1.00
Elder E. A. Lakey	1.00
Elder James Pickett	1.00
Elder Lonnie M. Goodwin	1.00

Deacons Who Registered

William Click	\$ 1.00
Joe Click, Jr.	1.00
Felix Smith	1.00
T. A. Armstrong	1.00
Henry Pickett	1.00
Eugene Howard	1.00
Thurmond Kimbrough	1.00
Frank Minor	1.00
Calvin McCreless	1.00
H. T. Rogers	1.00
Billie Britton	1.00
J. W. Isbell	1.00
H. W. Grice	1.00
Johnnie Parker	1.00
W. W. Pugh	1.00
S. T. Fowler	1.00
Ed Goodwin	1.00
A. M. Roberts	1.00
H. A. McSpadden	1.00
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	\$19.00

AUXILIARY REPORT

Shady Grove Auxiliary		First Free Will Baptist Church	
Adamsville, Alabama		Sylacauga, Alabama	
		Delegate, Mary Ritch	
Members	18	Dues	17.28
Monthly Meetings	2	Tithes	11.70
Regular Visits		Aprons, cards and quilts	44.51
Cards and flowers to the sick		Total	\$73.49
Expenses:		Expenses:	
Rubber Matting for church	\$ 41.95	Children's Home	50.00
Lectures	2.13	Convention Dues	1.40
Gifts for the sick	7.25	Literature	7.90
Pews for the church	125.50	Donation on piano for college	5.00
Paint	6.50	Money order and stamps	2.01
News lights for church	38.21	Total	66.31
Flowers for sick	10.61	In treasure	4.76
Quilting material	3.55	Association dues	.70
Other expenses	18.00	Personal sick visits	137
Total	253.70	Hospital calls	137
Balance in Treasure	\$157.89	Charity	\$100.35
		Trays carried	46
		Telephone calls	11
		Coupons to Children's Home	1500
		Ruth Strickland, Sec.-Treas.	

Fairview Church
Trussville, Rt. 2, Alabama

Delegates, Rebecca Harris and
Ora McCreless

Monthly meetings	2
Bal. in treas., Oct. 1, 1952	\$27.19
Quilting	19.00
Sale of Doughnuts	40.20
Donations and offerings	55.10
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	\$141.49
Paid out for flowers	28.12
Cards and books	7.33
Paint	15.70
Lights and curtains	7.83
Runners for church	26.78
Door for church	5.00
Misc. items	10.79
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Total Paid Out	101.55
Balance in treasure	39.94
Food and Clothing for Children's Home	60.00
Mrs. Louise Webb, President	
Mrs. Anita Day, Sec.-Treas.	

North Birmingham Church, 2803 North 32nd St., Birmingham, Ala.
Delegates: Mary McSpadden, E. G. Holt

Members	Active 12	Collection brought forward	9.77
Income:		Donations for dinners at hall	8.33
Oak Grove Church	6.27	Profit on Christmas cards	49.00
Shady Grove Church	20.00	Refund on cards	62.00
Mrs. Moss	1.00	Other donations	41.85
McEachern & Long Furn. Co.	2.50	Offerings from our Auxiliary	26.72
Al De Ment Chevrolet Co.	5.00	For cards and dues	18.00
East Birmingham Church	6.05	Sale of quilts	10.00
No. Birmingham Church	45.00		
George La Shum	5.00	Total	386.49
East Thomas Church	70.00		

Alabama State Association at North Birmingham Church

Entertainment and Food	\$179.58
Hall Rent	25.00
Hostess Service	20.00
Flowers for Sick	10.00
Love Offering for Bro. Johnny Britton	5.00
On Organ for College	10.00
Christmas Cards	62.00
Literature	15.63
Quilting Material	12.00
National Association Delegate (Sister Brom)	5.00
Extra Manuals	3.60
Easter Material	1.40
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Total	\$356.62
Balance in Treasure	29.87
Association Dues	1.20

Thanks to the various churches, friends and ladies for assistance
in entertaining the Alabama State Association at our church.

Mrs. J. T. Kimbrough, Secretary and Treasurer
Mrs. Harley Russell, President

Midway Church
Roanoke, Alabama

Organized April 11, 1953

Meetings, 3rd Saturday evening
of each month

Delegate, Martha Knight

Members	13
Money received for dues	27.00
Chicken dinners	86.50
Works	14.00
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Total	127.50
Paid out for chicken dinner	1.50
Church floor	87.00
Charity	4.00
Church pulpit	20.00
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Total	117.50

Balance in treasure 10.00
Martha Knight, Sec.-Treas.

MARCH 15, 1953

The general board of the Cahaba River Association met at the North Birmingham Church in special meeting to elect officers to fill vacancy of Treasurer of the Cahaba River Association and Treasurer of Home Mission Board and Trustee to the Children's Home at Eldridge, Alabama.

Elder Maxwell D. Harper was elected Treasurer for the Cahaba River Association.

Elder Maxwell D. Harper was elected Treasurer of Home Mission Board.

Elder Robert P. Ritch was elected Trustee to Children's Home at Eldridge, Alabama.

Elder Robert P. Ritch was elected Evangelist for the Cahaba River Association.

Executive Committee: Elder Maxwell D. Harper, Chairman, Elder Dewey F. Isbell and C. F. McCreless.

Home Mission Board: Elder J. W. Marlow, Chairman, Elder H. W. Grice and George La Shum.

Elder Robert P. Ritch, Moderator

H. A. McSpadden, Clerk

REPORT OF COMMITTEES

Credential: We have found all letters in proper form and certified by churches. Frank Minor, Chairman.

Business: We recommend Bro. Robert Parker to Ordaining Council for license to preach the gospel.

2. Bros. Jerold Parker and Chester Isbell, Norman Shirley to ordaining council for deacon examinations.

3. Bro. D. F. Isbell be examined by Ordaining Council as to doctrine by request.

4. Pleasant Valley Church request for next sitting of the Annual Association.

5. H. O. Walton for examination to Ordination of the Ministry.

Austin Hodges to be examined and exchange deacon papers.

6. Elder E. L. Isbell be elected to a Life (gold) Certificate of Standing in Free Will Baptist Church.

7. That the Communion service be changed back to Saturday night.

8. We recommend Bros. Clay Moseley, W. M. Smith, and Hut Isbell to the Ordaining Council.

We recommend each church elect and send one or more delegates to visit Children's Home each year to keep abreast of the need of the home.

Ordaining Council: 1. We find D. F. Isbell in accord with Free Will Baptist doctrine.

2. We don't find Hut Isbell in accord with Free Will Baptist doctrine and refer him back to his church.

3. We recommend H. O. Walton for ordination to the ministry.

4. We recommend the exchange of deacons papers with Austin Hodges.

5. We recommend the following be ordained as deacons: Bros. Norman Shirley, Chester Isbell, Jerold Parker, and Clay Moseley.

6. We recommend Bros. Robert Parker and W. A. Smith be licensed for one year to preach the gospel.

Elder M. D. Harper, Chairman, James M. Pickett, Johnnie C. Baxley, A. M. Roberts, Ed Goodwin

Standing of the Ministry: We recommend a certificate of standing as per request of churches and ordaining council.

T. A. Armstrong, Chairman, Charles N. Boothe

Auditing Committee: We find Treasurer's records and an undetermined amount of money missing. We further find records and money of present treasurer correct and in order.

H. H. Blanchard, H. W. Grice, S. T. Fowler
W. W. Pugh, Ed Goodwin

Temperance: We are instructed by the Bible to be temperate in all things. Let's obey these instructions and meet God in peace as He is our final Judge.
Myrtle Smitherman, Chairman

Sunday School: Sunday School is a place of Bible education and instruction in the ways of righteousness. Let's attend regularly and carry our children and use Free Will Baptist literature.
Mrs. Cecil Kendrick, Chairman

League: Our leagues are excellent places of Homelectial Training in the ways of righteousness for our youth and our older people find it to their benefit as well. Let's boost our leagues and keep them interesting.
Mrs. Dewey Hancock, Chairman

Deceased Members: We wish to extend our sympathy and love to the families and friends of our beloved brothers and sisters in Christ who have departed this life for their rewards:

Elder H. L. Mitchell, North Birmingham Church; Elder H. M. Black, North Birmingham Church; Elder Frank Lynn, Union Hill Church; Elizabeth Weldon, Union Hill Church; Louise Dolan, Union Hill Church; J. J. Johnson, Mount Pleasant Church; Mattie Nichols, Mount Pleasant Church; Robert Harris, Fairview Church; Florence Shields, Dillworth Church; Sister B. E. Martin, Pleasant Valley Church; One unnamed from Bethel Church.

Elsie Mae Minor, Chairman
Family Religion: We recommend consecration of our homes through reading of the Scripture and Prayer at family altar. The importance of teaching and training our children cannot be estimated as we show our Christian attitude more clearly in our homes than anywhere else. Guard against sin and be a living example of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ by love and fellowship to others.

Mrs. Mary Shirley, Mrs. Lena Brazzell
Mabel Boothe, Leacy Isbell

NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF MINISTERS

Elders Harry H. Blanchard	Alton, Alabama
Lonnie M. Goodwin	Leeds, Alabama
Roy Johnson	Route 1, Adamsville, Alabama
George La Shum	Route 1, Empire, Alabama
L. B. Hallmark	Route 7, Birmingham, Alabama
H. O. Walton	
Leonard Lively	Route 1, Empire, Alabama
R. H. Howard	Route 1, Sterrett, Alabama
Robert Armstrong	50 Georgia Ave., Sylacauga, Ala.
James Pickett Ph. 56-1640	2710 Ave. D, Ensley, Ala.
Maxwell Harper	Route 1, Marvel, Alabama
William Pickett	Route 1, Marvel, Alabama
Dewey F. Isbell	Leeds, Alabama
J. J. Staab	2313 No. 33rd Ave., Birmingham, Ala.
J. W. Marlow, Ph. 4-3097	700 W. 24th Ave., Birmingham, Ala.
Robert P. Ritch	Rt. 3, Box 260-F, Sylacauga, Ala.
A. R. Barron	Ensley, Alabama
W. R. Parker	38th Ave., 28th St., No. B'ham, Ala.
E. L. Isbell	Vandiver, Alabama
James M. McKay	Sterrett, Alabama
Earl Isbell	Dunnavant, Alabama
E. A. Lokey	Dunnavant, Alabama
T. J. Oakes	
A. M. Cagle	
J. C. Baxley	77 Harrison St., Sylacauga, Ala.
(Licensed) Robert Parker	Vandiver, Alabama
(Licensed) William Smith	Route, Empire, Alabama

Note: Ministers Conference, Section 2, Article 3, At every session of his conference, each minister is required to report himself either in person or by letter.

BY-LAWS OF MINISTERS AND DEACONS CONFERENCE OF CAHABA RIVER ASSOCIATION

- (1) The clerk or assistant clerk, or the Senior Minister in years, may call the meeting to order and shall have charge until moderator assumes his place.
- (2) It shall be the duty of the clerk to enroll all ministers present who are in good standing. If there are questionable characters they shall be referred to an appointed credential committee for advice but not for trial. They may be seated if found worthy, if not they are referred to their church.
- (3) Each meeting shall be opened with scripture reading and prayer.
- (4) By a two-thirds vote any decision of the moderator may be overruled.
- (5) This meeting shall sit with open doors unless it goes into a committee as a whole.
- (6) Any person, not a member of the body shall be allowed to take part in discussion, with moderator's permission, but shall have no vote.
- (7) All members of the body are expected to be present throughout the session unless excused by moderator.
- (8) No person shall be allowed to nominate more than one officer or committeeman if his nomination is elected.
- (9) The moderator must not allow any discussion to be carried on in an unchristian spirit.
- (10) The person who desires to speak, must first arise and address the moderator and when recognized shall proceed.
- (11) The votes on any question must be counted upon request of one-fifth of members present.
- (12) No member shall be allowed to speak more than ten minutes, nor twice on the same subject unless given permission by moderator.
- (13) All ministers belonging to this body are required to support all committees and boards elected or appointed by Association, (such as Home Mission Board, Building Committee, etc.).
- (14) This body ordains no one until he has carried license for one year and proved himself worthy of ordination.

CHURCH COVENANT

Having given ourselves to God, by Faith in Christ, and adopting the Word of God as our rule of faith and practice, we now give ourselves one to 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 appearances of evil, to abstain from sinful amusements and unholy confirmity of 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 knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

We will not forget the assembling of ourselves 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 and its poor and benevolent work.

We agree to accept Christian admonition and reprove 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 of 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 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 education and

denominational enterprises, the 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 until the coming of our Lord Jesus.

CONSTITUTION

Article I

The Association shall be known as The Cahaba River Association of the Free Will Baptist.

Article II

The Association shall be composed of Ministers, Deacons, and Delegates of different churches forming the same.

Article III

All ministers and churches wishing to become members of this body must willingly submit to the articles of constitution and all rules of same.

Article IV

Each church composing this Association shall be entitled to three (3) delegates of the first one hundred members and one (1) for each additional fifty (50) or fraction thereof.

Article V

This body shall have a standing Credentials Committee composed of three (3) members. Two ordained ministers or deacons and one (1) layman, whose duty shall be to examine all church letters and applications for membership of churches and ministers and make a report of the same to the body.

Article VI

The officers of the Association shall be composed of Moderator, Assistant Moderator, Clerk, Assistant Clerk, Treasurer. They shall be elected by body each year, at the end of each session. The Treasurer shall serve for a term of two (2) years. He shall handle all money of the Association and shall be bonded.

Article VII

The committees of this body shall be composed of standing members to alternate each session. They shall be composed of three to five members each. The committees are as follows: Credentials, Executive, Ordaining Council, Standing of Ministry, Business, Education, Sabbath School, Family Religion, Literature, Resolutions, Temperance, Deceased Members, Home Missions and Auditing. The Ordaining Council and Standing of Ministry to be composed of ordained men. Any committee-men absent for two (2) consecutive years to be filled by new members.

Article VIII

The General Board shall be composed of the officers of the Association and chairman of each committee. The Moderator to be chairman of this board. The duties of this board will be found in our Treatise, page 61, Section No. 3, 4, 5.

Article IX

This Association shall meet on Thursday night before the first Sunday in October of each year.

Article X

Each church shall pay tithes of their income thus: 25 per cent of tithes to Children's Home, 25 per cent of tithes to Annual Association, 25 per cent of tithes to Home Mission, 15 per cent of tithes to Foreign Mission, 10 per cent of tithes to Superannuation.

Article XI

Each minister and deacon belonging to this body shall pay an annual fee of \$1.00.

Article XII

The clerk shall be paid the sum of \$25.00 annually. The Moderator shall be paid the sum of \$25.00 annually. All other expenditures not specified herein shall be by decision of the body.

Article XIII

This Constitution may be amended or altered at any regular session of the Association by two-thirds (2/3) vote of members present, provided proposed amendment or alteration be presented in writing to the body one day in advance.

Ministers' Report to Association

No. of Churches Pastored.....No. of Sermons Preached.....
No. Baptized.....No. of Funerals Conducted.....No. of Marriages
Performed.....No. of Revivals.....No. of Miles Traveled.....
Amount of Offerings.....Expense.....
Elder.....
Address.....

TREATISE

ARTICLES OF FAITH

Chapter I—The Holy Scriptures

These are the Old and the New Testaments! They are written by holy men, inspired by the Holy Spirit, and are God's revealed word to man. They are a sufficient and infallible rule and guide to Salvation and all Christian worship and service.

Chapter II—Being and Attributes of God

The Scriptures teach that there is only one true and living God, who is Spirit, self-existent, eternal, immutable, omnipresent, omniscient, omnipotent, independent, good, wise, holy, just, and merciful, the Creator, Preserver, and Governor of the universe; the Redeemer, Savior, Sanctifier, and Judge of men; and the only proper object of worship.

The mode of His existence, however, is a subject far above the understanding of man—finite beings cannot comprehend Him. There is nothing in the universe that can justly represent Him, for there is none like Him. He is the fountain of all perfection and happiness. He is glorified by the whole creation, and worthy to be loved and served by all intelligence.

Chapter III—Divine Government and Providence

1. God exercises a providential care and superintendence over all his creatures, and governs the world in wisdom and mercy, according to the testimony of His Word.

2. God has endowed man with power of free choice, and governs him by moral laws and motives; and this power of free choice is the exact measure of man's responsibility.

3. All events are present with God from everlasting to everlasting; but His knowledge of them does not in any sense cause them, nor does He decree all events which He knows will occur.

Chapter IV—Creation, Primitive State of Man and His Fall

Section I—Creation

1. OF THE WORLD. God created the world, and all things that it

contains, for His own pleasure and glory and the enjoyment of His creatures.

2. OF THE ANGELS. The angels were created by God to glorify Him and obey His commandments. Those who have kept their first estate He employs in ministering blessings to the heirs of salvation and in executing His judgments upon the world.

3. OF MAN. God created man, consisting of a material body and a thinking, rational soul. He was made in the image of God, to glorify his Maker.

Section II—Primitive Man and His Fall

Our first parents, in their original state, were upright. They naturally preferred and desired to obey their Creator, and had no preference or desire to transgress His will until they were influenced and inclined by the tempter to disobey God's commands. Previous to this, the only tendency of their nature was to do righteousness. In consequence of the first transgression, the state under which the posterity of Adam came into the world is so different from that of Adam that they have not that righteousness and purity which Adam had before the fall; they are not willing to obey God, but are inclined to evil. Hence none, by virtue of any natural goodness and mere work of their own, can become the children of God, but they are all dependent for salvation upon the redemption effected, through the blood of Christ, and upon being created anew unto obedience through the operation of the Spirit, both of which are freely provided for every descendent of Adam.

Chapter V—Of Christ

Section I

Jesus Christ, the Son of God, possesses all divine perfections. As He and the Father are one, He in His divine nature, filled all the offices and performed the works of God to His creatures that have been the subjects of revelations to us. As man, he performed all the duties toward God that we are required to perform, repentance of sin excepted.

His divinity is proved from His titles, His attributes, and His works.

1. HIS TITLES. The Bible ascribes to Christ the titles of Savior, Jehovah, Lord of hosts, the first and the last, God, true God, great God, over all, mighty God, and the everlasting Father.

2. HIS ATTRIBUTES. He is eternal, unchangeable, omnipresent, omniscient, omnipotent, holy, and is to be worshipped.

3. HIS WORKS. By Christ the world was created, He preserves, and governs it; He has provided redemption for all men and He will be their final Judge.

Section II—The Incarnation of Christ

The Word, which in the beginning was with God and which was God, by whom all things were made condescended to a state of humiliation in being united with human nature and becoming like us, pollution and sin excepted. In this state, as a subject of the law, He was liable to the infirmities of our nature, was tempted as we are, but lived our example, perfect obedience to the divine requirements. As Christ was made of the seed of David according to the flesh, He is "the Son of man," and as the divine existence is the fountain from which He proceeded, and was the only agency by which He was begotten, He is "the Son of God," being the only begotten of the Father, and the only incarnation of the Divine Being.

Chapter VI—The Atonement and Mediation of Christ

1. THE ATONEMENT. As sin cannot be pardoned without a sacrifice, and the blood of beasts could never wash away sin, Christ gave Himself a sacrifice for the sins of the world, and thus made salvation possible for all men. He died for us, suffering in our stead, to make known the righteousness of God, that He might be just in justifying sinners who believe in His Son. Through the redemption effected by Christ salvation is actually enjoyed in this world, and will be enjoyed in the next by all who do not in this life refuse obedience to the known requirements of God. The atonement for sin was necessary. For present

and future obedience can no more blot out our past sins than past obedience can remove the guilt of present and future sins. If God pardoned the sins of men without satisfaction for the violation of His law it would follow that transgression might go on with impunity; government would be abrogated, and the obligation of obedience to God would be, in effect, removed.

2. MEDIATION OF CHRIST. Our Lord not only died for our sins, but He arose for our justification, and ascended up to heaven, where, as the only Mediator between God and man, he makes intercession for us, until He comes again.

3. We believe that all children dying in infancy, having not actually transgressed against the law of God, in their own persons are only subject to the first death, which was brought on by the fall of the first Adam, and not that any one of them dying in that state shall suffer punishment in hell by the guilt of Adam's sin for of such is the Kingdom of God.

Chapter VII—The Holy Spirit

1. The Scriptures ascribe to the Holy Spirit the acts and attributes of an intelligent being. He guides, knows, moves, gives information, commands, forbids, sends forth, reproves, and can be sinned against.

2. The attributes of God are ascribed to the Holy Spirit.

3. The works of God are ascribed to the Holy Spirit; creation, inspiration, giving of life, and sanctification.

4. The apostles assert that the Holy Spirit is Lord and God.

From the foregoing the conclusion is that the Holy Spirit, is in reality God, and one with the Father in all divine perfections. It has also been shown that Jesus Christ is God—one with the Father. Then these three: the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, are one God.

The truth of this doctrine is also proved from the fact that the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost are united in the authority by which believers are baptized; and in the benedictions pronounced by the apostles, which are acts of the highest religious worship.

Chapter VIII—The Gospel Call

The call of the Gospel is co-extensive with the atonement to all men, both by the word and strivings of the Spirit, so that salvation is rendered equally possible to all, and, if any fail of eternal life, the fault is wholly his own.

Chapter IX—Repentance

The repentance which the Gospel requires includes a deep conviction, a penitential sorrow, an open confession, a decided hatred and an entire forsaking of all sin. This repentance God has enjoined on all men; and without it in this life the sinner must perish eternally.

Chapter X—Faith

Saving faith is an assent of the mind to the fundamental truths of revelation, an acceptance of the Gospel, through the influence of the Holy Spirit, and a firm confidence and trust in Christ. The fruit of faith is obedience to the Gospel. The power to believe is the gift of God, but believing is an act of the creature, which is required as a condition of pardon, and without which the sinner cannot obtain salvation. All men are required to believe in Christ; and those who yield obedience to this requirement become the children of God by faith.

Chapter XI—Regeneration

As man is a fallen and sinful being, he must be regenerated in order to obtain salvation. This change is an instantaneous renewal of the heart by the Holy Spirit, whereby the penitent sinner receives new life, becomes a child of God, and is disposed to serve Him. This is called in Scripture being born again—born of the Spirit, being quickened, passing from death unto life, and a partaking of the divine nature.

Chapter XII—Justification and Sanctification

1. JUSTIFICATION. Personal justification implies that the person justified has been guilty before God, and in consideration of the atone-

ment of Christ, accepted by faith, the sinner is pardoned and absolved from the guilt of sin and restored to the divine favor. Christ's atonement is the foundation of the sinner's redemption, yet, without repentance and faith, it can never give him justification and peace with God.

2. **SANCTIFICATION** is the continuing of God's grace by which the Christian man constantly grows in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Chapter XIII—Perseverance of the Saints

There are strong grounds to hope that the truly regenerate will persevere unto the end, and be saved, through the power of divine grace which is pledged for their support, but their future obedience and final salvation are neither determined nor certain, since through infirmity and manifold temptations they are in danger of falling; and they ought therefore to watch and pray, lest they make shipwreck of their faith and be lost.

Chapter XIV—The Sabbath

This is one day in seven, which from the creation of the world God has set apart for sacred rest and holy service. Under the former dispensation, the seventh day of the week as commemorative of the work of creation, was set apart for the Sabbath. Under the Gospel, the first day of the week, in commemoration of the resurrection of Christ, and by authority of Christ and the apostles, is observed as the Christian Sabbath. On this day all men are required to refrain from secular labor and devote themselves to the worship and service of God.

Chapter XV—The Church

A **CHRISTIAN CHURCH** is an organized body of believers in Christ, who statedly assemble to worship God, and who sustain the ordinances of the Gospel according to the Scriptures. Believers in Christ are admitted to this church on giving evidence of faith in Christ, obtaining consent of the body, being baptized, and receiving the right hand of fellowship.

The Church of God, or members of the body of Christ, is the whole body of Christians throughout the whole world, and none but the regenerate are its members.

Chapter XVI—Tithing

Both the Old and New Scriptures teach Tithing as God's financial plan for the support of His work.

Chapter XVII—The Gospel Ministry

1. **QUALIFICATION OF MINISTERS.** They must possess good, natural and acquired abilities, deep and ardent piety, be especially called of God to the work, and ordained by prayer and the laying on of hands.

2. **DUTIES OF MINISTERS.** These are to preach the Word, administer the ordinances of the Gospel, visit their people, and otherwise perform the work of faithful ministers.

Chapter XVIII—Ordinances of the Gospel

1. **CHRISTIAN BAPTISM.** This is the immersion of believers in water, in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, in which are represented the burial and resurrection of Christ, the death of Christ, the death of Christians to the world, the washing of their souls from the pollution of sin, their rising to newness of life, their engagement to serve God, and their resurrection at the last day.

2. **THE LORD'S SUPPER.** This is a commemoration of the death of Christ for our sins, in the use of bread which He made the emblem of His broken body, and the cup, the emblem of His shed blood, and by it the believer expresses his love for Christ, his faith and hope in Him and pledges to Him perpetual fidelity.

It is the privilege and duty of all who have spiritual union with

Christ to commemorate His death; and no man has a right to forbid these tokens to the least of His disciples.

3. **WASHING THE SAINTS FEET.** This is a sacred ordinance, which teaches humility, and reminds the believer of the necessity of a daily cleansing from all sin. It was instituted by the Lord Jesus Christ, and called an "example" on the night of His betrayal, and in connection with the institution of the Lord's Supper. It is the duty and happy prerogative of every believer to observe this sacred ordinance.

Chapter XIX—Death

1. **DEATH**—As a result of sin, all mankind, is subject to the death of the body. The soul does not die with the body; but immediately after death enters into a conscious state of happiness or misery, according to the character here possessed.

Chapter XX—Second Coming of Christ

The Lord Jesus, who ascended on high, and sits at the right hand of God, will come again, to close the Gospel dispensation, glorify His saints, and judge the world.

Chapter XXI—The Resurrection

The Scriptures teach the resurrection of the bodies of all men, each in its own order; they that have done good will come forth to the resurrection of life, and they that have done evil to the resurrection of damnation.

Chapter XXII—The Final Judgment and Final Retribution

1. **THE FINAL JUDGMENT.** There will be a final judgment, when time and man's probation will close forever. Then all men will be judged according to their works.

2. **FINAL RETRIBUTION.** Immediately after the final judgment, the righteous will enter into eternal life, and the wicked will go into a state of endless punishment.

Name of Church	Members	New Members	No. Baptized	No. Dismissed	No. Deceased	No. Ordained Ministers	No. Ordained Deacons	Licensed Ministers	Church Valuation	Improvement	Paid Pastor	Paid Evangelist	Unified Program	Children's Home	Home Mission	Foreign Mission	Superannuation	College	Benevolent	Association	Other Expenses
Sylacauga	158	6	2	1	0	3	7	0	\$12000.00	\$ 250.00	\$1029.03	\$ 83.54	\$18.00	\$120.00				\$83.09	\$ 26.80	\$ 25.00	\$ 815.98
Union Hill	75	4	2	0	3	3	3	1	2500.00		49.39	59.00		10.00						8.00	
Davis Chapel.....	47	2	5	0	0	1	3	0	2500.00		245.00	97.00		12.50						10.00	
Mt. Olive	54	12	9	2	0	3	2	0	1500.00		12.50	50.00								7.20	
Fairview.....	115	9	5	8	1	3	7	0	4700.00		563.83	62.00		88.45						10.00	
Shady Grove	58	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	2000.00		354.65	135.00		93.50						10.00	
Oak Grove.....	54	13	8	4	1	4	1	0	2500.00		150.00	105.00		28.00						5.00	
Mt. Pleasant	21						3		3000.00	143.00	250.00			195.00	2.00				86.00	13.10	
Dillworth.....	48	10	6		1	2	1	1	500.00											5.00	
Pleasant Valley	26			1	1		3		4000.00	1281.62	485.00	45.00		85.00	24.00					10.00	
Midway.....	26	12	5		1				2000.00	498.49	80.00	151.77			5.00					6.10	
Bethel	86				1	2	6	0	7000.00	224.56	550.00	20.00		12.00						10.00	75.72
East Birmingham	38	16	1	0	0	1	7	0	5500.00		480.00	36.00		58.00		60.11				5.00	
No. Birmingham	70	8	0	8	2	3	4	3	10000.00	744.50	1325.00	235.72		76.88	76.88	45.35	38.83			76.88	255.00
TOTAL	876	94	43	24	11	25	47	5	\$59700.00	\$3139.17	\$5574.40	\$1080.03		\$779.33	\$107.88	\$105.46	\$38.83	\$83.09	\$112.80	\$201.28	\$1146.70

CHURCH	CLERKS	CHURCH	CLERKS
Sylacauga	Earlene Fowler, Rt. 2, Box 39H, Sylacauga, Ala.	Mt. Pleasant	J. W. Barnett, Spratt, Ala.
Union Hill	Halia Andrews, Vandiver, Ala.	Dilworth 2	Francis Tinsley, Empire, Rt. 1
Davis Chapel	Willie L. Caudle, Sterrett, Rt. 1	Pleasant Valley	Mrs. Cecil Hodgins, Chelsea, Rt. 1
Mt. Olive	Lottie K. Isbell, Dunavant, Ala.	Midway	Mrs. A. M. Roberts
Fairview	Ed Goodwin, Trussville, Rt. 2	Bethel	C. B. Boothe, Marvel, Rt. 1
Shady Grove	Mrs. Joe Click, Jr., Adamsville, Rt. 1	East Birmingham	Mrs. Sidney Brom
Oak Grove	Mary Hallmark, Rt. 7, Birmingham, Ala.	North Birmingham	Mary McSpadden, Rt. 9, Box 231F, B'ham, Ala.

NOTE TO CHURCH CLERKS: Use only Annual Report Blanks. And fill in complete for your annual report. Thanks, Clerk.