

**MINUTES**  
— OF THE —  
**SECOND ANNUAL SESSION**

— OF THE —  
**EAST ALABAMA  
FREE WILL BAPTIST  
ASSOCIATION**

HELD WITH  
**UNITY FREE WILL  
BAPTIST CHURCH**  
OF SYLACAUGA, ALABAMA

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 8th, 1959**



**OFFICERS**

|                                     |                     |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Rev. Walter E. Jones .....          | Moderator           |
| 1911 Second Ave., Phenix City, Ala. |                     |
| Rev. C. L. Finch .....              | Assistant Moderator |
| Mrs. Dorothy Hendon .....           | Clerk and Treasurer |
| Miss Peggy Hendon .....             | Assistant Clerk     |



The Third Session will be held with St. James Free Will Baptist Church, 1909 Second Avenue, Phenix City, Alabama, on the Second Saturday in August, 1959.

*2 Churches: Opelika, Unity of Sylacauga  
& St James Phenix*



## EAST ALABAMA FREE WILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

### Order of Business of Quarterly or Yearly Association

1. The body called to order by the Moderator if present, if not the Assistant Moderator if he is present, if not the body may select some other suitable member to act as Moderator.
2. Call for corresponding letters.
3. Invite visiting brethren to seats.
4. Appoint committees.
5. Morning Message.
6. Program by church assigned.
7. Call for committee reports.
8. Call for miscellaneous or new business.
9. Election of officers at yearly association and appointing time and place for quarterly meeting.
10. Adjournment.

### CALENDAR OF MEETINGS FOR YEAR 1959-1960

Alabama State Association on November 5-6-7, 1959 at St. James Freewill Baptist Church, 1909 2nd Avenue, Phenix City, Alabama.

First Quarterly Meeting of East Alabama Association will be on November 14, 1959 at First Freewill Baptist Church, Opelika, Alabama.

State Youth Rally to be held at First Freewill Baptist Church in Opelika, Alabama on December \_\_\_\_\_, 1959.

Second Quarterly Association of East Alabama will be held on Second Saturday in February at St. James Freewill Baptist Church, Phenix City, Alabama.

East Alabama District Sunday School and League Convention to be held at Unity Freewill Baptist Church, Sylacauga, Alabama on last Saturday in April, 1960

Third Quarterly Association of East Alabama will be held at Unity Freewill Baptist Church, Sylacauga, Alabama on second Saturday in May, 1960.

State Woman's Auxiliary, Sunday School and League Convention to be held on June \_\_\_\_\_, 1960 in Florence, Alabama.

Third Annual Session of the East Alabama Association to be held on Second Saturday in August 1960 at St. James Freewill Baptist Church in Phenix City, Alabama.

### THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Rev. C. L. Finch, Chairman, Bro. W. C. Bush, Bro. Sanford Hale

### THE ORDINATION COUNCIL

Rev. C. B. Dowdney, Chairman, from Opelika; Rev. A. T. Byrd, from St. James; Gaines Henry from Unity; Bro. J. N. Bramlett from St. James; Bro. Huey Lacy from Opelika.

### NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF MINISTERS

#### St. James:

Rev. Walter E. Jones, 1911 Second Avenue, Phenix City—Pastor.  
Rev. P. E. Knighton, 1610 21st Street, Phenix City, Ala.  
Rev. A. T. Byrd, 909 13th Street, Phenix City, Ala.

#### Unity:

Rev. C. L. Finch, 804 West Pine Street, Sylacauga, Ala.—Pastor.  
Rev. Roy R. Johnson, Graysville, Ala.  
Rev. Donald Grice, Birmingham Highway, Sylacauga, Ala.

#### First at Opelika:

Rev. C. B. Dowdney, 2203 2nd Avenue Ext.—Pastor  
Rev. Robert (Bobby) Creech, Address Unknown.  
Rev. Robert Sanders, Talladega, Alabama.



## FIRST QUARTERLY MEETING

East Alabama Free Will Baptist Association quarterly meeting held November 1, 1958 with St. James Free Will Baptist Church, Phenix City, Alabama. Opening song — "Love Lifted Me", Prayer by Bro. Chester O'Donald.

1. The meeting was called to order by the moderator, Rev. Walter Jones.

2. Corresponding letters were received from Unity, First Free Will and St. James Free Will Baptist Churches. Each church enclosed with its letter \$5.00 for minutes and \$5.00 offering for children's home. Moved to accept letters as read by Bro. Creech. Seconded, carried.

3. Invite visitors to seats; we were happy to have Bro. Chester O'Donald, clerk of the State Association visiting with us.

## 4. Appointing Committees.

## 1. Business Committee—

Bro. Jackson — First Free Will, chairman  
Bro. Grice — Unity  
Bro. Johnson — St. James

## 2. Deceased Committee:

Sis. Brooks — Unity  
Sis. Creech — First Free Will  
Sis. Scarbrough — St. James

## 3. Temperance Committee:

Bro. Duck — Unity, chairman  
Bro. Parker — First Free Will  
Bro. Bramlett — St. James

## 4. Sabbath Observance Committee:

Bro. Williams — Unity  
Bro. Jackson — First Free Will  
Sis. Smith — St. James

## 5. Sunday School Committee:

Sis. Creech — First Free Will  
Sis. Johnson — Unity  
Sis. Peggy Hendon — St. James

## 6. League Committee:

Sis. Charolette Jones — St. James  
Bro. Hale — First Free Will  
Sis. Patsy Johnson — Unity

5. Morning Message by Rev. Price Hayes after which meeting adjourned for lunch. Meeting convenes at 2:00 P. M. Opening song—Send the Light. Prayer by Sis. Hendon.

6. Program given by the Ladies Auxilliary of First Freewill Church of Opelika. Scripture reading by Rev. Walter Jones.

## 7. Call for committee reports.

Business Committee recommends that ministers and deacons certificates be purchased and given to each minister and deacon of this association. Moved to accept—seconded and carried.

Deceased Committee reports the death of Mrs. Ida Ophelia Lake, age 80. Date of Death—August 30, 1958. She was a member of St. James Church.

Temperance Committee, we the temperance committee recomend that we control our temper at all times. In all work we start to do have patience. Obstain from alcholic drinkand qualify for leaders in Sunday School or League. Moved to accept this recommendation—seconded and carried.

Sabbath Observance Committee, we the Sabbath observance committee feel that the Sabbath is a day of rest and to worship our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Our week-days should be worshipful also, but on the Sabbath we should assemble ourselves together for worship, prayer and song. Moved to accept this report—seconded and carried.

Sunday School Committee, we the Sunday School Committee recommends at least 3 officers be elected from each church to come to the next meeting to serve as a committee to set the date for and organize a Sunday School Convention. Moved to accept—seconded and carried.

League Committee, we the league committee recommend that we have a League Convention once a year, with one league presenting a program. We also recommend that we send delegates to the National Convention, paying their expenses. We recommend also that our leagues begin a promotional program, enlisting new members. Moved to accept—seconded and carried.

8. Miscellaneous or New Business: Rev. Robert Creech was select-ed to bring devotional for the second quarterly meeting to be held February 14 at Unity Freewill Baptist Church. Rev. Price Hayes will bring the message.

For the third quarterly meeting Rev. Roy Johnson will bring the message. Devotional.

Bro. Ledlow was replaced by Bro. Roy Johnson as chairman on the executice committee. Bro. Creech was nominated to take Bro. Harris' place as chairman on ordination council. Bro. Ledlow was replaced by Bro. Jones on ordination council.

Motion was made and carried to send check for State Association Fee of \$6.00. \$2.00 for each church in our association.

Moved and seconded to adjourn meeting. Next meeting to be held second Saturday in February.

Dismissed by Rev. Roy Johnson.

Rev. Walter Jones — Moderator  
Sis. Dorothy Hendon — Clerk-Treasurer

## SECOND QUARTERLY MEETING

Second quarterly meeting held February 14, 1959, with Unity Free-will Baptist Church, Sylacauga, Alabama. Opening Song — "To the Work". Prayer by Bro. A. J. Lambert.



An inspiring duet was given by Bro. and Sis. Lambert. Rev Robert Creech brought the devotional. Subject — "How Tall Are We".

1. The meeting was called to order by the moderator, Rev. Walter Jones.

2. Corresponding letter were received from Unity, First Feewill and St. James Churches. Enclosed in each letter \$5.00 for minutes and \$5.00 offering for children's home

3. The moderator extended a cordial welcome to all visitors. Rev. Joe S. Fredrich, Jasper, Alabama, and Rev. Robert Sanders, Talladega, Alabama.

#### 4. Appointing Committees:—

##### 1. Finance Committee:

Sis. Lacy — Chairman, Opelika  
Bro. Bradshaw — St. James  
Sis. Brown — Unity

##### 2. Business Committee—

Bro. Charles Allen — Opelika  
Bro. J. N. Bramlett — St. James  
Bro. Grice — Unity

##### 3. Deceased Committee—

Sis. Tyler — Unity  
Sis. Reddish — St. James  
Sis. Allen — Opelika

##### 4. Temperance Committee—

Sis. Hale — Opelika  
Bro. W. C. Bush — St. James  
Bro. L. S. Thomas — Unity

##### 5. Sabbath Observance Committee—

Sis. Lora Cagle — Opelika  
Sis. Brooks — Unity  
Sis. Bessie Cooper — Unity

##### 6. Sunday School Committee—

Bro. Bush — St. James  
Sis. Nadine Hale — Opelika  
Sis. Duck — Unity

##### 7. League Committee—

Sis. S. Hale — Opelika  
Sis. Carol Grice — Unity  
Bro. Bradshaw — St. James

5. Morning Message given by Rev. Price Hayes after which morning session was dismissed by Rev. Fredrick. Lunch was enjoyed by all.

Afternoon meeting opened with a song by the congregation.

6. Program was given by the Ladies Auxiliary of First Freewill Church, Opelika.

#### 8. Call for Committee Reports.

Finance committee — \$15.00 received for minutes. \$15.00 offering for children's home. Moved and seconded to accept Finance Report as read. Carried.

Business Committee recommends that the churches of our association help finance the food expense for the State Association Meeting to be held with St. James Church, November 5, 6 and 7. We recommend that each church receive an offering for this cause. Moved, seconded and carried.

Temperance Committee — Temperance is one of the graces. We are taught to add to our lives in 2nd Peter 1-6. It gives power to avoid the appearance of evil, to abstain from sinful amusements and all unholy conformity of the world and from all sale of intoxicating beverages and to persevere our souls into the coming of our Lord.

A move was made to accept this report as read, seconded—Carried.

Sabbath Observance Committee — God's plan for all christians is to remember the Sabbath Day and keep it holy. We are commanded to set aside a day of real worship and devotion. Moved to accept, seconded and carried.

Sunday School Committee — We suggest that each church work for more attendance. May the Grace of God be with each church. We also suggest that we set the time and place for our convention, this item coming under new business. For our convention we suggest the same moderator and that each church prepare a program. Moved, seconded and carried.

League Committee — We the League Committee recommend that the league and Sunday School be combined for convention, and that a President be appointed by Bro. Jones to act until the first meeting. The President's duties will include working with the three churches making plans for the convention. We recommend that each Pastor urge his Sunday School Superintendent to cooperate with this appointed man in promoting this convention. Moved, seconded and carried that League and Sunday School be combined for convention on June 13th 1959. Meeting to be held with First Freewill Church at Opelika, Alabama. Moved, seconded and carried that we send \$5.00 to Superannuation.

Moved to Adjourn.

Dismissed by Bro. Byrd.

Rev. Walter Jones — Moderator.

Sis. Dorothy Hendon — Secretary-Treasurer.

#### THIRD QUARTERLY MEETING

Third Association quarterly meeting held on May 9, 1959 at First Freewill Baptist Church of Opelika, Alabama. Opening Song — "I Am Thine Oh Lord." Prayer by Bro. Robert Sanders. Rev. A. T. Byrd brought the devotional.

1. The meeting was called to order by the moderator, Rev. Walter Jones.

2. Corresponding letters received from various churches and read



by Bro. Jones. Moved to adopt letters and seat the delegates.

An offering of \$5.00 was received from each church making a total of \$15.00. A \$5.00 offering was received from each church for the children's home.

3. The moderator extended a cordial welcome to all visitors. Bro. and Sis. Lambert with children from the children's home were among the visitors. Also we were happy to have Bro. Harris, Bro. E. D. Ledlow and Bro. Raymond Ledlow.

#### 4. Appointing Committees—

1. Finance Committee  
Bro. Jackson — Opelika  
Sis. Grice — Sylacauga  
Bro. Wayne Bradshaw — St. James

2. Business Committee  
Bro. Bramlett — St. James  
Bro. S. Hales — Opelika  
Bro. Grice — Sylacauga  
Bro. Gilmore — Sylacauga  
Bro. Bush — St. James

3. Deceased Committee  
Sis. Cooper — Sylacauga  
Sis. Alma Hale — Opelika  
Sis. Joyce Scarbrough — St. James

4. Temperance Committee  
Bro. U. Z. Hale — Opelika  
Sis. Carolyn Grice — Sylacauga  
Sis. Peggy Hendon — St. James

5. Sabbath Observance Committee  
Sis. Grice — Sylacauga  
Bro. Horace Jackson — Opelika  
Bro. Ray Parrish — St. James

6. Sunday School Committee  
Sis. Charlotte Jones — St. James  
Sis. S. Hale — Opelika  
Sis. Brooks — Sylacauga

7. League Committee  
Sis. Alice Hutchinson — St. James  
Sis. Carol Grice — Sylacauga  
Sis. Myrna Hale — Opelika

5. Bro. Carlton Lambert brought the morning message. Dismissed for lunch by Bro. Harris. Meeting convened at 2:30. Bro. Ed Ledlow led the congregation in singing. Prayer by Brother Raymond Ledlow. Bro. Jones read a brief scripture reading.

6. Ladies Auxilliary-Business and program enjoyed by all.

7. Call for Committee reports.

1. Finance committee report — \$15.00 received for minutes, \$15.00 offering for children's home. Moved to accept finance committee

report. Carried.

2. Business committee — We the business committee recommend that we accept Bro. Robert Creech's resignation of assistant moderator and chairman of ordination board. We also recommend that we give a letter of recommendation to Bro. Ed Ledlow. This report was adopted and the vacancy was filled by Bro. Sanders.

3. Deceased committee — Bro. R. J. Mitchum, a member of the First Freewill Baptist Church of Opelika passed away recently. He was a charter member. The church feels a great loss, but the Lord knows best. Report adopted as read.

4. Temperance committee — We the temperance committee recommend that we refrain from all intoxicating drinks and be obedient to God. To treat each other with brotherly love and to participate in all services of the church also in mission work. This letter adopted as read.

5. Sabbath Observance committee — We urge all christians to remember the Sabbath Day and keep it holy. God commanded us to set aside a day of real worship and devotion. Adopted as read.

6. Sunday School and League Committee — We urge all who can attend the State Sunday School and League Convention at Northport, Alabama. We also recommend that we send delegates to represent our association. Adopted as read.

Bro. Jones, Sis. Scarbrough, Sis. Alice Hutchinson, Sis. Peggy Henson, Sis. Carol Grice, Bro. Wayne and Donnie Bradshaw and Bro. DeVaugh Askew were selected to represent us at the State Sunday School and League Convention.

A special offering of \$19.29 was received for children's home. In addition, we voted to give \$10.00 from association treasure.

It was suggested that each church receive a special offering during next month for the children's home. It was also suggested that each church tithe for next 4 weeks for this purpose.

A rising vote of thanks was extended to host church.

Meeting dismissed by Bro. Lambert.

Rev. Walter Jones — Moderator

Sis. Dorothy Hendon — Clerk

#### SECOND ANNUAL MEETING

East Alabama Second Annual Association met August 8, 1959 with Unity Freewill Baptist Church of Sylacauga, Alabama. Opening song "Some Day". Prayer — Rev. C. L. Finch. Devotional — Rev. Chester O'Donnald.

1. Meeting was called to order by the moderator, Rev. Walter Jones.

2. Corresponding letters were received from St. James, Unity and First Freewill Baptist Churches. Read by C. L. Finch.

Delegates from St. James Church—

Bro. J. N. Bramlett, Sis. Lois Smith, Sis. Joyce Scarbrough, Sis. Charlotte Jones and Sis. Peggy Hendon.



Delegates from Unity Church of Sylacauga, Alabama—

Bro. H. W. Grice, Bro. J. W. Gilmore, Bro. James Brown, Sis. Susie Tyler, Sis. Magalene Grice, and Bro. Donald Duck.

Delegates from First Church of Opelika, Alabama—

Bro. Huey Lacy, Sis. Mae Lacy and Glen Lacy.

### 3. Appointing of Committees—

1. Finance Committee  
Bro. H. W. Grice, Chairman  
Sis. Joyce Scarbrough  
Sis. Lacy

2. Business Committee  
Bro. J. N. Bramlett, Chairman  
Bro. Duck  
Bro. Lacy

3. Deceased Committee  
Sis. Tyler  
Sis. Charlotte Jones  
Bro. Glen Lacy

4. Temperance Committee  
Bro. Gilmore  
Bro. Lacy  
Sis. Lois Smith

4. Welcome given by Bro. Grice to all visitors. We are happy to have Rev. R. P. Ritch and Rev. Chester O'Donnell visiting with us.

A Duet was enjoyed by all given by Carol Grice and Carolyn Culver.

5. Morning message by Rev. R. P. Ritch. Meeting was dismissed for lunch by Rev. C. L. Finch. Meeting convened at 2:00 p.m. with opening song — "Wonderful Story of Love". Prayed by Sis. Lois Smith.

6. Rev. Chester O'Donnell, Clerk of State Association gave an interesting talk, after which Rev. Walter Jones read a brief scripture reading. Phillippeans 2:1-10.

### Call for Committee Reports.

1. Finance Committee — \$10.00 received from each church for minutes. Total \$30.00. \$10.00 offering received for children's home.

2. Business Committee — No Report.

3. Deceased Committee — First Freewill Baptist Church of Opelika — Bro. Mitchum. Unity Church — None. St. James — Sis. Ophelia Lake died August 30, 1958.

Far beyond this veil of sorrow  
In a land of perfect day,

There will be a glad tomorrow  
Where all cares will pass away.

O! The joy of that glad morning,  
When we rise from slumbers sleep,

A crown of life our brow adorning  
Never more we'll sigh or weep.

4. Temperance Committee — We the temperance committee believe being temperant in all things, our services to God, our church and neighbors, loving them with the love that Jesus taught.

### Election of Officers.

Moderator — Rev. Walter Jones  
Assistant Moderator—Rev. C. L. Finch  
Clerk and Treasurer—Sis. Dorothy Hendon

### New Business.

First quarterly meeting on Second Saturday in November to be held at First Freewill Baptist Church of Opelika.

Second quarterly meeting to be held on the second Saturday in February at St. James Freewill Baptist Church of Phenix City, Alabama.

Third quarterly meeting to be held on the second Saturday in May at Unity Freewill Baptist Church of Sylacauga, Alabama.

Third Annual Association meeting to be held Second Saturday in August at St. James Freewill Baptist Church of Phenix City, Alabama

Sunday School and League Convention to be held the second Saturday in April at Unity Freewill Baptist Church of Sylacauga, Alabama.

Bro. Jones suggested a rising vote of thanks to host church for their wonderful hospitality.

Moved to adjourn until second Saturday in November.

Moderator — Rev. Walter Jones  
Clerk — Sis. Dorothy Hendon

## MINUTES OF THE EAST ALABAMA

### SUNDAY SCHOOL AND LEAGUE CONVENTION

Opening song — Send the Light—Page 30.

Devaughan Askew was elected President for the District Sunday School and League Convention. Rev. Walter E. Jones, Vice-President. Carol Grice elected as Secretary-Treasurer. Sword Drill Leader—Sis Dorothy Hendon. Chorister—Devaughan Askew and Pianist Peggy Hendon.

A committee was appointed by Bro. Jones to make the By-laws for the Sunday School and League Convention.

A program on Sunday School and League was presented by Unity Freewill Baptist and one presented by the First Freewill Baptist of Opelika. Morning message was brought by Bro. Walter E. Jones.

# STATISTICAL TABLE

|  | Total Membership | Rec'd by Letter | Rec'd. by Baptism | Rec'd. By Statement | Dismissed | Deceased | Expelled | Paid Pastor | Paid Evangelist | Paid Children's Home | Paid Foreign Missions | Paid Superannuation | Paid Christian Education | Paid Publications and Literature | Paid Utilities and All Other Purposes | Buildings and Repairs | Quarterly and Annual Association Fees | Pastor's Allowances | Associational Projects | State and National Projects | Value of Church Property | Value of Parsonage |
|--|------------------|-----------------|-------------------|---------------------|-----------|----------|----------|-------------|-----------------|----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|
| First Church at Opelika, Ala.<br>Pastor—Rev. C. B. Dowdney<br>Clerk—Mrs. Charles Champion        | 53               | 3               | 0                 | 0                   | 1         | 1        | 0        | \$1,870.00  | \$ 85.00        | \$118.89             | \$ 15.12              | \$16.18             | 0                        | \$ 91.36                         | \$ 351.86                             | \$ 934.78             | \$20.00                               | 0                   | \$80.00                | \$31.30                     | \$10,000.00              |                    |
| St. James Church at Phenix City<br>Pastor—Rev. Walter E. Jones<br>Clerk—Mrs. Margaret Scarbrough | 272              | 2               | 12                | 7                   | 3         | 1        | 0        | 2,650.00    | 225.00          | 214.50               | 105.75                | 36.48               | 25.00                    | 245.76                           | 2,303.00                              | 919.20                | 25.00                                 | \$279.75            | 50.00                  |                             | 20,000.00                | \$10,000.00        |
| Unity Church at Sylacauga, Ala.<br>Pastor—Rev. C. L. Finch<br>Clerk—Shirley McDaniel             | 114              | 10              | 0                 | 0                   | 1         | 1        | 0        | 1,125.00    | 75.00           | 60.00                | 21.00                 | 0                   | 0                        | 0                                | 0                                     | 1,384.89              | 25.00                                 | 0                   | 50.00                  |                             | 20,000.00                | 8,000.00           |



1:00

Opening song — Joy Unspeakable.

A short song service was carried on by Devaughan Askew.

Afternoon message was brought by Phillip Gilbert. He made an interesting talk on Sunday School and League work

By-laws were read and accepted as written. \$17.15 was given to Bro. Phillip Gilbert.

The Executive Committee of the association will serve as Executive Committee of the Sunday School and League Convention.

A short prayer was given as dismissal.

The East Alabama Sunday School and League Convention will convene if it be God's will the last Saturday in April.

Carol Grice — Secretary

#### COMMITTEE ON LADIES AUXILIARY

Report of the Auxiliary of the East Alabama Association (Yearly report) when convened with Unity Freewill Baptist Church, Sylacauga, Alabama, August 8, 1959.

President — Mrs. Sanford Hale, Route 1, Opelika.

Secretary and Treasurer — Mrs. Charles Champion, Route 2, Opelika

|                           |    |                 |     |
|---------------------------|----|-----------------|-----|
| Number of Auxiliaries     | 3  | Hospital Visits | 195 |
| Number on Roll            | 38 | Sick Calls      | 200 |
| Number Meetings Held      | 36 | Trays Served    | 75  |
| Prayer Meetings Sponsored | 3  |                 |     |

#### FINANCIAL REPORT

|                 |         |                   |        |
|-----------------|---------|-------------------|--------|
| Flowers Sent    | \$ 6.66 | Church Projects   | 342.00 |
| Assoc. Projects | 40.00   | Total in Treasury | 22.00  |

#### CHURCH DECORUM

1. The church may choose a pastor annually or as deemed necessary by the Church, or if they prefer they may call a pastor for an indefinite length of time.

2. The pastor shall be moderator of all church conferences, but when he is absent or does not sit as moderator, some other suitable brother shall be appointed to sit in his place.

3. There shall be two or more deacons in the church whose duty it shall be to assist the pastor in the administrative of the Lord's Supper.

4. Some suitable member shall be appointed Clerk and it shall be his duty to do all the recording and other writing pertaining to the business of the church, and to preserve a file of minutes of the Church.

5. When a new Clerk is appointed, all books, etc., belonging to the Clerk shall be immediately delivered to him by his predecessor.

6. It shall be the duty of every member, male and female, to at-

tend each conference meeting if they can, for on that day the pastor is expected to instruct the church in spiritual manner by giving plain and pointed lessons on doctrine, discipline and the rule of holy living.

7. Conferences shall be opened and conducted as follows:

1. Prayer (unless divine service has been conducted). 2. Invite visiting brethren to seat with us. 3. Open doors of the church for reception of members. 4. For acknowledgments. 5. For reference or deferred business. 6. For matters of dealing which are in order to come before the Church. 7. Miscellaneous business. 8. Adjournment.

8. Visiting brethren as helps called in from sister churches, shall be allowed to speak and make motions or seconds, but not allowed to vote.

9. Any orderly member of the Baptist church who does hold this church in membership, may be received into the Church without a letter, when it is made apparent that his Christian character is unimpeachable, and that he has applied for a letter and could not obtain it because he desired to join this or some other sister church. All other members must join by letter or baptism.

10. No member shall be received without the unanimous consent of the members present but unreasonable objections shall not be valid, and unless withdrawn the member who makes them shall be liable to be taken under dealing by the church.

11. No member shall be expelled unless he has been cited verbally or in writing to attend this trial; provided his residence be known to the church.

12. The evidence in every case of dealing and acknowledgment shall be minuted in the church book.

13. Members dismissed from the church by letter who become disorderly or continue to hold their letter without a good reason shall be cited to the conference to answer for their conduct.

14. Expelled members may be restored to fellowship on their petition if their walk since expulsion has convinced the church that they have sincerely repented of their former evil.

15. A vote shall not be taken on any question without a move and a second and in all important questions the votes shall be taken by rising on their feet.

16. No other motion shall be considered while previous motion and second is before the Conference.

17. It shall be considered disorderly for a member to be absent from conference when an important question is to be decided; but a member upon his request, may be excused by the church from voting on either side in peculiar cases.

18. No member shall leave the house during conference without a sufficient cause nor engage in conversation or whispering without being subject to be called to order by the Moderator.

19. All discussion in conference must be conducted with calmness and good feeling; those who speak must rise to their feet and address



the Moderator, and keep to the point in debate.

20. No one shall speak more than three times on the same motion without permission of the Moderator, nor shall the remarks of any one be unreasonably long.

21. When the Moderator speaks he must nominate some other brother in his stead.

22. No one shall be interrupted while speaking unless it is necessary to call the speaker to order.

23. It shall be the rule of the Church to attend to the administration of the Lord's Supper and Feet Washing at least four times a year, and the expenses are to be paid by the Church.

24. Members not in good standing shall not commune, but the administration shall not be deferred on account of any.

25. Public fasting, humiliation and prayer shall be observed on proper occasions.

26. This Decorum may be amended or altered by the vote of two-thirds of the members present at any two successive monthly conferences.

27. Association recommended that this association not consider for ordination any man who does not pay tithes.

28. Any member who is absent from his church for six months shall be placed on inactive roll until he returns and proves himself to satisfaction of the church.

### BY-LAWS

1. The clerk or assistant clerk, or in their absence, the senior minister in years shall call the Association into conference, and if a quorum is present the moderator *or in his absence, the assistant moderator shall take charge; and if neither of them is present, the senior minister in years shall act as moderator.*

2. It shall be the duty of the Clerk to enroll the delegates to the Association, who shall present themselves with proper evidence of their rights to seats therein, and those enrolled by the Clerk shall compose the Association. In case of questionable representation, however, the cases under question shall be referred to the credential committee.

3. It shall be the duty of every body belonging to this Association to send a letter to every annual session of this Association, reporting in the same spiritual condition, benevolent work, and its statistics. Any body belonging to this Association, which shall fail to report itself for two successive sessions, may be dismissed from the Association by a two-thirds vote of all members present.

4. Each meeting shall be opened by reading a portion of the Bible and with prayer, and shall be closed with prayer.

5. By a two-thirds vote of all members present a ruling of the moderator can be over-ruled.

6. This Association may correspond by messenger or otherwise

with other religious bodies.

7. This Association shall sit with open doors except when it shall go into a committee of the whole.

8. Any person not a member of this Association may be allowed to take part in its discussions by obtaining permission from the moderator.

9. It shall be the duty of all the members of the Association to be present at the time appointed for each meeting, and any one wishing to retire shall first obtain leave of the moderator.

10. No member shall absent himself from the Association during its meetings without first obtaining permission from the moderator.

11. No person shall be allowed to nominate more than one member of any committee, provided the person nominated be elected.

12. The moderator shall not allow discussions when not carried on in a Christian spirit or when he thinks it will cause discord or division.

13. Any one desiring to speak shall rise to his feet and address the moderator by the appellation, "Brother Moderator," but shall not speak further until recognized by the moderator.

14. The "yeas" and "nays" may be counted on any question by request of one fifth of the members present.

15. No member of this Association shall be allowed to speak more than ten minutes nor twice on the same subject without permission from the moderator.

16. It shall be the duty of the moderator to seat delegates in a designated section of the assembly room at the beginning of each business session.

17. These By-Laws may be altered or amended at any regular or adjourned session of this Association by a two-thirds vote of the members present.

18. Minutes of the Association shall be read and adopted at the end of each session.

19. No preacher shall be ordained unless called to take charge of a church as pastor or for some other good and sufficient reason.

20. Any church desiring the service of the Ordaining Council between conferences bear the expense of the council.

### 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. *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, adore, and obey.



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 Savior and Lord.

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.

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 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 years of accountability sin, and become guilty before God.

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.

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 Saviour 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 conditions 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 the 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 eternal 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; FEET WASHING, an ordinance teaching humility, of universal obligation, and to be administered to all true believers.

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

15. *The Christian Sabbath.* The divine law requires that one day in seven be set apart from secular employments and amusements for

rest, worship, holy works and activities, and for personal communion with God.

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."

## CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS OF SUNDAY SCHOOL AND LEAGUE CONVENTION

*PREAMBLE:* The East Alabama Free Will Baptist Sunday Schools and Leagues, do hereby organize as a District Convention in order to advance, promote, inspire, inform, teach and train our respective groups for greater service to Christ and the cause of our denomination.

### CONSTITUTION

*ARTICLE 1.* Name—This organization shall be known as the East Alabama District Sunday School League Convention.

*ARTICLE 2.* Officers—The officers of this convention shall be a President, Vice-President, Secretary-Treasurer, Sword Drill Director, Chorister, Pianist and Executive Board of five members.

*ARTICLE 3.* Representation—

1. Each Sunday School and League shall send from one to ten delegates from each church and a \$2.00 fee.

2. All delegates are to be appointed from local Church.

*ARTICLE 4.* Executive Board shall be the same as the East Alabama Association Executive Board of the Association.

2. The duties of the executive board and officers shall be to act for the convention when that body is not in regular session, and to act as a promotional agency for the Sunday Schools and Leagues in general. The convention program shall be planned three months prior to convention date, by the officers of Sunday School and League Convention.

*ARTICLE 5.* Meetings—This convention shall meet on the last Saturday of April of each year, and at a place selected by the convention while in regular session or by the executive board.

### BY-LAWS

*ARTICLE 1.* Duties of Officers—

1. President—It shall be the duty of the President to preside over all meetings of the Convention, appoint temporary committees, and to see that the convention is governed in the Spirit of Christ and according to parliamentary usage of Robert's Rules of Order. The president shall call the officers of the convention, along with the executive board, into session to plan the convention program.

Section 2. Vice-President—The vice-president shall carry on the du-



ties of the President when that office is not present or when requested by the president. He shall assist in the general supervision of the duties of that office.

Section 3. Secretary-Treasurer—It shall be the duty of this officer to keep an accurate record of the transactions of the convention and to preserve the same. It shall also be the duty of this officer to be custodian of all monies coming into the treasury and shall make a financial report at each session of the Convention. He shall disburse all monies as directed by the Convention or the executive board, while the convention is not in regular session. All the valuable and documents shall be turned over promptly to his successor in office.

Section 4. Sword Drill Director—It shall be the duty of this officer to prepare and preside over all Bible quiz and sword drill programs.

Section 5. Chorister—The chorister shall direct the Musical and song portions of the convention program.

Section 6. Pianist—The pianist shall assist the chorister in the general program of music and song.

#### *ARTICLE 2. Voting—*

Section 1. All questions coming before the Convention shall be decided by majority vote, in case of a tie the president shall vote.

Section 2. Voting shall be restricted to all officers of the Convention, Ministers, Superintendents and delegates from each League and Sunday School.

#### *ARTICLE 3. Election of Officers—*

Section 1. All officers shall be elected by the Convention in regular session from nominations either by a committee or from the floor. This shall be done annually.

Section 2. No person shall be disqualified for re-election because of having previously held the office.

Section 3. Both Sunday School and League shall be emphasized during each convention program.

*ARTICLE 4. Membership—*The members of this convention shall be the regular officers, the executive board, Free Will Baptist Ministers in good standing, all Sunday School Superintendents, all League Presidents and delegates appointed by the organization they represent. It shall be the duty of organizations sending delegates to see that they send bear proper credentials.

#### *ARTICLE 5. Amendments—*

Section 1. This constitution and these by-laws shall not be changed or altered only by a two-thirds vote of members present in regular session.

Section 2. All amendments shall lie on the table from Morning session through noon hour prior to adoption during the afternoon session.



## 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 Savior, Jesus Christ,"

We will not forget 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 so 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.