

Rev. Lee Hanks

MINUTES

—Of The—

FIFTY-SIXTH ANNUAL SESSION

—Of The—

FLINT RIVER FREEWILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

Convened With

EBENEZER CHURCH, MORGAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

SEPTEMBER 17, 18 AND 19, 1937

OFFICERS

Brother J. D. Robertson, Moderator Route One, Lacon, Alabama

H. M. Bell, Clerk Route One, Lacon, Alabama

The next session of this Association will convene with Union Hill Church, Morgan County, Alabama, three miles west of Eva, Alabama, on Friday before the third Sunday in September, 1938.

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MINUTES

The Fifty-Sixth Annual Session of the Flint River Freewill Baptist Association convened with Ebenezer Church, Morgan County, Alabama, on Friday before the third Sunday in September, 1937.

The introductory sermon was preached by Rev. J. M. Engle. Followed by Rev. W. H. Ryland. Text used: 1st. John, 3rd Chapter and 16th verse.

At 1:30 o'clock the body reassembled. After singing by the congregation and prayer by Rev. I. D. Garrison, the house was called to order by the moderator protem, Rev. W. C. Brown.

First: Visiting brethern were invited to seat with us.

Second: H. M. Bell was appointed reading clerk.

Third: Letters were called for from the various churches and intelligence was received from five churches. Read and delegates seated.

Fourth: Petitionary letters were called for and none received.

Fifth: The moderator appointed the following committees:

ON ORDER OF BUSINESS—D. B. Holmes, J. A. Taylor, E. W. Henry, J. L. Lawrence, and E. Z. Tucker, together with the Moderator and Clerk.

ON DEVOTIONAL—E. L. Brown, H. A. Nails and L. E. Guthrey.

ON TEMPERANCE—J. M. Engle, T. J. Atkins and W. L. Lindsey.

ON CHARACTER OF MINISTERS—L. E. Guthrey, J. M. Holmes and E. W. Henry.

ON FINANCE—W. H. Lawrence, J. P. Hudson and T. J. Atkins.

Sixth: The moderator declared the association fully organized and made a surrender of his trust notifying the association that the officers of moderator and clerk were vacant.

Then the body proceeded to elect a moderator and clerk, whereupon Brother J. D. Robertson was elected moderator, and H. M. Bell was elected clerk. After which the association adjourned until Saturday morning at eight o'clock.

SECOND DAY

On Saturday morning the ministers and delegates assembled. After singing by the congregation and prayer by W. R. Powell the Association was called to order by the moderator.

First: Roll called and delegates seated.

Second: Visiting brethren were invited to take seats with us, and Rev. Ira D. Garrison responded.

Third: Called for report of Committee on Order of Business. Following is their report:

We your committee on Order of Business beg leave to report as follows, "That we take up the regular form of our old minute with any other work that may come before the Association.

"Respectfully submitted,

J. L. Lawrence, Chairman.

Report adopted. Committee discharged.

Fourth: Called for report on character of ministers. Following is report.

"We your committee on Character of Ministers beg leave to report as follows: That we find all our ministers in good standing. We also appoint for Presbytery. Revs. J. H. Holmes, W. L. Lindsey, and W. H. Lawrence."

J. L. Lawrence, Chairman.

Report adopted. Committee discharged.

Fifth: Constitution and rules of Decorum were read and the union perpetuated.

Sixth: Resolved that our ministers shall not baptize people who do not believe in an Organic Church.

Seventh: Resolved that we have a standing committee for the purpose of investigating the character of ministers and they shall have the power to appoint a presbytery for the purpose of ordaining ministers in our association.

Eighth: Resolved that our ministers go and preach the gospel and organize churches and call for aid as they see fit.

Ninth: Resolved that we do not allow ministers to preach in our churches who oppose the Freewill Baptist Doctrine.

Tenth: Resolved that we the association advise the various churches to remember their pastors for their services.

Eleventh: Resolved that we do not allow ministers to preach in our church who do not believe in an Organic Church.

The association adjourned at 11:00 o'clock for preaching. Rev. Ira D. Garrison giving the benediction.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

At 1:30 o'clock the Association reassembled. After singing and prayer by Rev. J. H. Holmes, the following was transacted.

First: Roll called, delegates seated.

Second: Visiting brethren were invited to seat with us.

Third: Called for report of committee on Temperance.

We your committee on temperance beg leave to report as follow: "We advise our members to abstain from all intoxicating drinks or sin in any form."

"Respectfully submitted,

"Rev. J. M. Engle, Chairman."

Fourth: Resolved that a church in the Flint River Association shall not receive members from her sister churches without a letter of recommendation.

Fifth: Resolved that the Presbytery of the Flint River Association shall not be allowed to ordain ministers who cannot set forth the doctrine of the Freewill Baptist denomination.

Sixth: Resolved that an applicant for ordination must preach before the presbytery before his ordination can be performed.

Seventh: Resolved that ministers of the Flint River Association shall not be allowed to organize churches, where the church cannot be permanently established.

Eighth: Resolved that deacons of a church where a minister has his membership be required to assist the standing committee to investigate any rumors that come against him.

Ninth: Resolved that no church call for a pastor, a minister, who has not been ordained.

Tenth: Resolved that this association communicate with Bear Creek Association by delegates, also the Progressive Association by delegates and Muscle Shoals State Line Association by letter.

Eleventh: Resolved that this Association have an Evangelist and that a committee of one from each church be appointed by their pastor to work together and outline the Evangelistic work and solicit financial aid for him.

Twelfth: Moved and carried that the next session of this Association be held with Union Hill Church, Morgan County, Alabama, three miles west of Eva, Alabama, on Friday before the third Sunday in September, 1938, and that Rev. J. H. Holmes preach the introductory sermon followed by Rev. J. M. Engle.

Thirteenth: Resolved that the clerk have \$5.00 for preparing and distributing the minutes.

Fourteenth: Called for report of committee on finance.

"We your committee on Finance beg leave to report that we have collected \$15.00 and find in treasury \$7.70, a total of \$22.70.

"Respectfully submitted,

"J. P. Hudson, Chairman."

Report adopted and committee discharged.

Fifteenth: Resolved that this association have an executive committee for the purpose of examining young ministers. (1) His respective church of which he is a member and recommend him to the said committee. (2) And if found to be sound in faith and principle, they recommend him to his church to license for not more than one year; (3) And if not found to be sound in faith and doctrine that he be turned down and that the Presbytery be this Committee.

Sixteenth: Called for report of Evangelist. None received.

Seventeenth: Resolved that no member of the Association shall be eligible to the offices of Moderator and Clerk for more than two successive sessions.

Eighteenth: Moved and carried to liberate Rev. J. M. Engle for Evangelistic work for the ensuing year.

Nineteenth: Resolved that the ministers and delegates composing the Flint River Association tender our thanks to Ebenezer Church and the

people of that community for their hospitality shown us and may God's richest blessings rest upon them.

BROTHER J. D. ROBERTSON, Moderator.
H. M. BELL, Clerk.

REPORT OF DEVOTIONAL COMMITTEES

Friday night, 7:30 o'clock, Rev. Ira D. Garrison.
Saturday, 11:00 o'clock, Rev. W. C. Brown.
Saturday night, 7:30 o'clock, Rev. W. L. Reeves.
Sunday, 11:00 o'clock, Rev. Ira D. Garrison.

CALL FOR CONFERENCE

1. Called for peace and fellowship.
2. Called for acknowledgments.
3. Invitation to visiting brethren.
4. Invitation for membership.
5. Call for complaints.
6. Reading minutes of last conference.
7. Is pastor faithful in his duties?
8. Are officers faithful in their duties?
9. General business.

ORDAINED MINISTERS

Rev. J. H. Holmes Route One, Lacon, Alabama
Cullman County.
Rev. W. C. Brown Route One, Lacon, Alabama
Morgan County.
Rev. J. T. Quick Route One, Cullman, Alabama
Cullman County.
Rev. J. M. Engle 1611 Fifth Avenue South, Decatur, Alabama
Morgan County.
Rev. W. O. Brown Cullman, Alabama
Cullman County.
Rev. W. L. Lindsey Cullman, Alabama
Cullman County.
Rev. W. H. Lawrence Cullman, Alabama
Cullman County.
Rev. W. M. Elms Route One, Cullman, Alabama
Cullman County.
Rev. T. J. Atkins Route One, Lacon, Alabama
Morgan County.
Rev. Tillman Brown Route Two, Vinemont, Alabama
Cullman County.

LICENSED MINISTERS

Rev. J. P. Hudson Route One, Hanceville, Alabama
Cullman County.

NAMES OF DELEGATES

D. B. Holmes, E. L. Brown, J. M. Holmes, J. A. Taylor, Cora Runge,
Becky Morgan, E. W. Henry, Cora Holmes, Ollie Holmes, J. L. Lawrence,
W. J. Hall, H. A. Nails, E. Z. Tucker, L. E. Guthery, Susie Guthery.

VISITING DELEGATES

From Bear Creek Association—Rev. Ira D. Garrison.
Progressive Association—Rev. W. H. Ryland.

DELEGATES APPOINTED TO BEAR CREEK ASSOCIATION

W. E. Grant, Jenny Grant, E. L. Brown, Eva Brown.

DELEGATES TO PROGRESSIVE ASSOCIATION

None appointed.

CLERK'S REPORT

Amount in treasury	\$ 22.70
Paid out	17.00
Amount paid for printing of minutes	\$12.00
Paid Clerk for his services	5.00
Balance on hand	\$ 5.70

CHURCH COVENANT

Having given ourselves to God by faith in Christ and adjoining 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 will not forget the assembling of ourselves together for church conference.

We agree to accept Christian admonition and reproof with meekness and watch over one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the spirit in the bonds of peace, to strengthen the weak and admonish the erring. We everyone hold Christian principal sacred.

RULES OF DECORUM

1. After an introductory sermon is preached the Association shall be called together by the Moderator who presided at the last session, former clerk also officiating until organized.

2. The Association shall be opened and closed by singing and prayer.

3. The Association, when assembled, shall be composed of all the ministers and delegates chosen by the different churches comprising the body.

4. The officers of the Association shall consist of a moderator and clerk to be chosen from the members present in any way the members see fit.

5. It shall be the duty of the moderator to preside over the body during the session at which he is elected, to call the next session to order

and to preside until re-organization is effected by the election and installation of his successor. It shall be his duty to keep order, enforce the rule of decorum, decide all questions or discipline and in case of a tie cast the deciding vote. He may speak on any subject but must call on some brother to preside while he is speaking.

6. It shall be the duty of the clerk to keep a minute of the proceedings and read the same when called upon by the body, and shall prepare the minutes for publication, unless the Association shall appoint some one else for that purpose.

7. Each church is entitled to three delegates.

8. A majority of the members shall rule in all cases, except the admission of churches; then the vote must be unanimous.

9. No member shall absent himself from the house without leave from the moderator; and no member shall take final leave of the Association without consent of the body.

10. All business shall be brought before the body by motion and seconded and be disposed of by good usage.

11. No person shall be allowed to speak more than twice on the same subject nor more than ten minutes each time without leave from the moderator.

12. No brother shall be interrupted while speaking unless he departs from the subject under discussion, or uses words of personal reflection.

13. Only one person shall be allowed to speak at a time, and he must rise and address the moderator. In case two arise at the same time the first seen by the moderator shall be allowed to speak.

14. This decorum may be altered, amended or abridged at any session of the Association by a majority of the members present.

CONSTITUTION AND ARTICLES OF FAITH

Be it known that we the Freewill Baptist Church of Christ being in the State of Alabama, do believe in the doctrine of general atonement; we have been baptised upon a profession of faith in Christ and we are desirous of bringing about a reciprocal union; we propose therefore to maintain order and rules of our Association according to the following plan.

We believe the churches of Christ are mutually independent of each other, that congregational form of church government should be invariably preserved. Yet we, being convinced of the utility of friendly intercourse and pious council on principles of union advantage and Christian love hold it a duty to the church to pay respect to these principles with regard to the duty of the Association.

Article 1. The Association shall be composed of members chosen by the different churches in our union, who on producing letters from the respective churches certifying their appointment, shall be entitled to seats.

Article 2. The letters so produced shall express the condition of these churches respectively, that is the number of members received, excluded or died since last Association.

Article 3. This body shall have no conceived power to lord it over God's heritage or infringe on any of the internal privileges or rights of the churches in our union. But shall only be considered an advisory council in all things pertaining to the internal concerns of the churches.

Article 4. The Association is to give the best advice in all matters of difficulty. If the union is broken between any of the churches the Association shall inquire into the cause of the breach and use its best endeavors to remove the difficulty. But if the breach can not be healed, to withdraw from the churches it may look upon as unsound in principle or disorderly in conduct or practice until they be reclaimed.

Article 5. To take up no case of any kind in the union without the consent of a majority of churches, and then only to give advice.

Article 6. All newly appointed churches may be received into the union by their representatives presenting a letter from their respective churches. If found orderly and orthodox such receptions be manifested by giving the right hand.

Article 7. We believe that it is pointedly against the law of Christ to make a church a legislative body. We therefore, refuse to correspond with others in their respective bodies.

Article 8. For as much as the communion of the body and blood of Christ has become a matter of difficulty in many of the churches, we believe it to be free to all who can maintain a right by authority of the word of God.

Article 9. We believe in the general resurrection of the dead, and a universal judgment, and the joys of the righteous and the punishment of the wicked will be eternal.

Article 10. We believe that none but ordained ministers have the right to administer baptism and immersion in the apostolic mode.

Article 11. We believe that none but believers in Christ are fit subjects for baptism.

Article 12. We believe it is the duty of disciples of Christ to wash each others feet.

REVEREND J. M. BELL

Born February 15, 1860, died August 24, 1937, at the age of 77 years, six months and nine days, was confined at home three years and seven months before he died. Served as an ordained Freewill Baptist Minister 48 years. He was converted at 18 years of age at the Methodist Church at Grady's Cove, Morgan County, Alabama. Joined the Missionary Baptist Church and stayed with them about eight years, then when Edernezer Freewill Baptist Church was organized, Morgan County, Alabama, he was a charter member as a Deacon. Only two charter members now living, viz., W. R. Sint and wife, a sister of the deceased.

Soon after the church was organized he was licensed to preach and before long as he proved himself worthy he was ordained. He was a member of the Flint River Freewill Baptist Association. Served as its

STATISTICAL TABLE FOR 1937

CHURCHES	COUNTY	PASTORS	CLERKS AND THEIR POSTOFFICES										
				Minute Fund	Total Membership	Dismissed by Letter	Excluded	Deaths	Restored	Received by Letter	Received by Confession	Baptized	Days of Meeting
Ebenezer	Morgan	W. L. Lindsey	J. D. Robertson, Lacon 1	7.50	54	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	4
Union Hill	Morgan	W. L. Lindsey	Cora Runge, Falkville 1	1.50	41	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Cedar Creek	Morgan	T. J. Atkins	Olie Holmes, Hartselle	1.25	31	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2
Unity	Cullman	W. C. Brown	Lena Nails, Vinemont 2	1.85	43	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1
Macedonia	Cullman	J. T. Quick	Bertha Tucker, Cullman	3.00	58	0	2	0	0	0	6	3	3

Moderator several years. He was an able gospel minister and loved by all who knew him, and will be greatly missed by the association and church and churches at different places where he served as pastor and his community.

He leaves a wife, six children and two sisters, viz., Mrs. Sints and Mr. Holmes, a host of friends and relatives to mourn the loss. But may we realize that our loss is Heaven's gain and be ready when the summons comes for us to meet him in Heaven.