

# MINUTES

— of the —

FIFTY-NINTH ANNUAL SESSION

— of the —

## FLINT RIVER FREEWILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

Convened With

UNITY CHURCH, CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA  
SEPTEMBER 13, 14 AND 15, 1940

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### OFFICERS

Rev. J. T. Quick, Moderator..... Route One, Cullman, Alabama  
J. D. Robertson, Clerk.....Route One, Lacon, Alabama

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The Next Session of this Assoviation will Convene With Ebenezer  
Church, Morgan County, Alabama, Three Miles East of  
Lacon, Alabama, on Friday before the Third  
Sunday in September, 1941.

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# MINUTES

The Fifty-Ninth Annual Session of the Flint River Freewill Baptist Association convened with Unity Church, Cullman County, Alabama on Friday before the third Sunday in September, 1940.

The Introduction Sermon was preached by Rev. James Abbott. Subject: Twelfth Chapter of Romans.

At one o'clock the body reassembled. After singing by the congregation and prayer by Rev. W. C. Brown, the house was called to order by the Moderator.

First: Visiting brethren are invited to seats with us.

Second: Rev. J. T. Quick 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.

Fifth: The Moderator appointed the following committees:

ON ORDER OF BUSINESS—L. C. Brown, L. E. Reeves, Ed. Henry, H. O. Holmes, W. H. Guthery, together with the Moderator and Clerk.

ON DEVOTION—J. N. Lindsey, Ed. Henry, W. H. Guthery.

ON TEMPERANCE—J. H. Holmes, Tillmon Brown, O. K. Morgan.

ON CHARACTER OF MINISTERS—H. G. Edwards, Ed. Henry, L. E. Guthery.

ON FINANCE—J. P. Hudson, A. H. Hale, W. J. Hall.

ON RESOLUTION—D. H. Davenport, W. J. Hall, H. M. Bell.

Sixth: The Moderator declared the Association fully organized and made a surrender of his trust, notifying the Association that the offices of Moderator and Clerk were vacant.

Then the body proceeded to elect a Moderator and Clerk, whereupon Rev. J. T. Quick was elected Moderator and J. D. Robertson was elected Clerk; after which the Association adjourned until Saturday morning until eight o'clock.

## SECOND DAY

On Saturday morning the ministers and delegates assembled. After singing and prayer by Rev. W. C. Brown the Association was called to order by Moderator Pro-tem Rev. W. C. Brown.

First: Roll call and delegates seated.

Second: Visiting brethren invited to seats with us and Brother Rev. J. M. Haas and daughter, Pearl; Rev. Ira D. Garrison and Rev. H. M. Black 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 minutes with any new business that might come before the body.

Respectfully submitted,

H. O. Holmes, Chairman.

Report adopted and committee discharged.



Fourth: Called for report of Committee on Character of Ministers. Following is their 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 Rev. J. H. Holmes, Rev. W. L. Lindsey, Rev. James Abbott".

H. G. Edwards, Chairman.

Report adopted and committee discharged.

Fifth: The 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 churches who do not believe in an organic church.

The Association adjourned at 10:30 o'clock for preaching. Rev. H. M. Black giving the benediction.

#### SATURDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

At 1:30 o'clock the Association met pursuant to adjournment. After singing and prayer by Rev. Ira D. Garrison, the house was called to order by the Moderator.

First: Roll called, delegates seated.

Second: Visiting brethren invited to seats with us.

Third: Called for report of Committee on Temperance and the following was received:

"We, your Committee on Temperance, beg leave to report as follows: Be temperant in all your Godly deliberations with the meekness of the Spirit."

Rev. J. H. Holmes, Chairman

Report adopted and Committee discharged.

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 might come against him.

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

Tenth: Resolved that this Association communicate with Bear Creek, Vernon, Cahaba, Jasper, Birmingham District Associations and that also be represented in the State Association by delegates and letter.

Delegates to Bear Creek Association: Rv. J. H. Holmes, Rev. W. H. Lawrence, H. O. Holmes.

Delegates to Vernon Association: L. E. Guthery, J. L. Homes, W. H. Guthery,

Delegates to Cahaba Association: Rev. W. H. Lawrence, Rev. Tillmon Brown, Rev. W. L. Lindsey.

Delegate to Jasper Association: Rev. J. L. Quick.

Delegates to Birmingham District: J. L. Homes, Rev. D. H. Davenport, Rev. O. K. Morgan.

Delegates to State Association: L. E. Guthery, Rev. D. H. Davenport, Rev. W. L. Lindsey.

Eleventh: Moved and carried that the next session of this Association be held with Ebenezer Church, Morgan County, Ala., three miles East of Lason; commencing on Friday before the third Sunday in September, 1941, and that the Rev. W. L. Lindsey preach the introductory sermon; Rev. J. L. Quick, alternate.

Twelfth: Resolved that the Clerk have \$5.00 for preparing and distributing the minutes.

Thirteenth: Called for report of Committee on Finance.

We, your Committee on Finance, beg leave to report that we have collected \$16.35 and find in the Traesury \$5.70; a total of \$22.05.

J. P. Hudson, Chairman

Report accepted and Committee discharged.

Fourteenth: Called for report of Evangelist.

I beg leave to report the following: Sermons preached, 58; Public prayers, 40; Received in church, 2; Baptised, 1; Visited sick homes, 10; Funerals preached, 3; Ordained deacons, none; Ordained ministers, 1; Pastored churches, none; Held Communion services, none; Conducted prayer meetings, 8; Attended Sunday S. S., 10; Held revivals, 6; Miles traveled, 1500; Money received, \$54.20; Traveling expenses, \$7.50; Married couples, 1; Organized S. S., none; Evangelistic work, visited 5 Associations; Held revivals in 3.

Rev. J. T. Quick

Fifteenth: Moved and carried to liberate Rev. J. H. Holmes for Evangelistic work for the ensuing year.

Sixteenth: That we tender our thanks to Unity Church and the community for their hospitality shown us. May God's richest blessings rest upon them.

REVEREND J. T. QUICK, Moderator.

J. D. ROBERTSON, Clerk.



## REPORT OF DEVOTIONAL COMMITTEE

Friday night at 7:30 o'clock, Rev. J. H. Holmes.  
 Saturday at 11:00 o'clock, Rev. J. M. Haas.  
 Saturday night at 7:30 o'clock, Rev. H. M. Black.  
 Sunday at 11:00 o'clock, Rev. Ira D. Garrison.

### CALL FOR CONFERENCE

1. Called for Peace and Fellowship.
2. Called for Acknowledgement.
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.....	Decatur, Alabama
	Morgan County
Rev. W. O. Brown.....	Louisville, Kentucky
Rev. W. L. Lindsey.....	Route One, Lacon, Alabama
	Morgan County
Rev. W. H. Lawrence.....	Cullman, Alabama
	Cullman County
Rev. J. T. Atkins.....	Route Three, Hartselle, Alabama
	Morgan County
Rev. Tillman Brown.....	Route Two, Vinemont, Alabama
	Cullman County
Rev. W. M. Elms.....	Route One, Cullman, Alabama
	Cullman County
Rev. James Abbott.....	Route One, Cullman, Alabama
	Cullman County
Rev. O. K. Morgan.....	Route One, Cullman, Alabama
	Cullman County
Rev. W. D. Knight.....	Route One, Cullman, Alabama
	Cullman County
Rev. R. E. Barnes.....	Route One, Hanceville, Alabama
	Cullman County
Rev. Hence Davenport.....	Route One, Cullman, Alabama
	Cullman County

### LICENSED MINISTERS

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

## NAMES OF DELEGATES

J. N. Lindsey, L. C. Brown, A. H. Hale, L. E. Reeves, Susie Edwards,  
 W. J. Hall, Ed. Henry, Olie Holmes, J. L. Lawrence, H. O. Holmes, Lena  
 Nails, W. H. Guthery, Alma Smith, Emma Gossitt.

### VISITING DELEGATES

From North East Mississippi Association — Rev. J. M. Haas and  
 daughter, Pearl.

From Bear Creek Association—Rev. Ira D. Garrison.

From Cahaba Association—Rev. H. M. Black.

### CLERK'S REPORT

Amount in Treasury.....	\$22.05
Paid our for Printing Minutes.....	12.00
Paid Clerk.....	5.00
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Total Paid Out.....	\$17.00
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Balance on Hand.....	\$ 5.05

### 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 in-  
 stallation 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 of 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.



# STATISTICAL TABLE FOR 1940

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

CHURCHES	COUNTY	PASTORS	CLERKS AND THEIR POSTOFFICES	Days of Meeting	Baptized	Received by Confession	Received by Letter	Restored	Deaths	Excluded	Dismissed by Letter	Total Membership	Minute Fund
Ebenezer	Morgan	T. J. Atkins	H. M. Bell, Lacon 1	4	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	153	\$ 7.50
Union Hill	Morgan	W. L. Lindsey	W. J. Hall, Falkville 1	3	0	0	0	1	0	1	2	40	3.00
Cedar Creek	Morgan	W. L. Lindsey	Olie Holmes, Hartselle 3	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	34	1.50
Unity	Cullman	J. H. Holmes	H. O. Holmes, Vinemont 2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	39	1.35
Macedonia	Cullman	J. T. Quick	Bertha Tucker, Cullman 1	3	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	82	3.00

1575