

MINUTES
OF THE
SIXTIETH ANNUAL SESSION
OF THE
FLINT RIVER
FREEWILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

CONVENED WITH EBENEZER CHURCH

MORGAN COUNTY, ALA., SEPT. 19, 20, 21, 1941



OFFICERS

Rev. J. T. Quick, Moderator, Route 1, Cullman, Ala.
J. D. Robertson, Clerk, Route 1,, Lacon, Ala.



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MINUTES

The Sixtieth Annual Session of the Flint River Freewill Baptist Association convened with Ebenezer Church, Morgan County, Alabama, on Friday before the Third Sunday in September, 1941.

The Introduction Sermon was preached by Rev. J. T. Quick. Text: 1 Timothy, 4th chapter, 16th verse.

At one o'clock the body reassembled after singing by the congregation and prayer by Rev. J. T. Quick, the house was called to order by the Moderator.

First: Visiting Brethren invited to seats 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—W. J. Hall, Ed Henry, G. J. Millican, J. L. Lawrence, D. B. Holmes.

ON DEVOTIONAL — Charley Davis, H. M. Bell, Ed Henry.

ON TEMPERANCE—D. H. Davenport, James Abbott, W. C. Brown.

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

ON FINANCE—Albert Marring, O. K. Morgan, L. C. Brown.

ON RESOLUTION—D. H. Davenport, J. H. Holmes, W. C. Brown.

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 reelected Moderator and J. D. Robertson was reelected Clerk after which the Association adjourned until Saturday morning at eight o'clock.

SECOND DAY

On Saturday morning the Ministers and Delegates assembled after Song by the Congregation and prayer by Rev. D. H. Davenport the Association was called to order by the Moderator.

First: Roll called and delegates seated.

Second: Visiting brethren invited to seats with us and none 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 other new business that might come before the body.

Respectfully Submitted,

W. J. Hall, Chairman.

Report adopted, committee discharged.

Fourth: Called for report 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 of Ministers in good standing. We also appoint for Presbytery Rev. J. H. Holmes, Rev. O. K. Morgan, Rev. W. L. Lindsey, Edd Henry, Chairman.

Report adopted and committee retained.

Fifth: The Constitution and Rules of Decorum were read and the Union perpetuated.

Sixth: Resolved that 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 the 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 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 the 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.

SUNDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

At 1:15 o'clock the association met pursuant to adjournment. After song by the congregation and prayer by Rev. W. C. Brown. The house was called to order by the Moderator.

First: Roll Call. Delegates seated.

Second: Visiting Brethren invited to seats with us.

Third: Called for report of Committee on temperance.

We your committee on temperance beg leave to report as follows be temperate in all your Godly deliberation with the meekness of the Spirit with all long suffering and forbearance.

Rev. D. H. Davenport Chairman.

Report received 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's 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 help the standing committee to investigate any rumor that might come against him.

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

Tenth Resolved that this association communicate with Bear Creek, Vernon, Cahaba River, Jasper, Birmingham District Associations and be represented in the state association.

Delegates to Bear Creek: Ed Brown and wife, J. L. Hane, Vernon, L. E. Guthery and wife, Cahaba River; Rev. W. H. Lawrence, Jasper; Rev. D. H. Davenport, Rev. O. K. Morgan, Rev. J. T. Quick, state association. W. J. Hall, D. B. Holmes, L. E. Guthery.

Eleventh: Moved and carried that the next session of this association be held with Union Hill Church, four miles west of Eva, Morgan County, Ala. on Friday before the third Sunday in September, 1942, and that Rev. W. C. Brown preach the introductory. Rev. J. T. 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 treasure \$5.05 a total of \$21.40. Albert Marring, Chairman. Report accepted and committee discharged.

Fourteenth: Called for report of Evangelist none received.

Fifteenth: Resolved that we have a committee on obituary and a discussion in memory of the dead.

Sixteenth: Resolved that we drop the names of all ministers from our minutes that miss attending the association for three year in succession.

Seventeenth: Moved and carried to liberate Rev. G. J. Atkins for Evangelistic work for the ensuing year.

Eighteenth: Resolved that we tender our thanks to Ebenezer church and community for their hospitality shown us. May God's richest blessings rest upon them.

Rev. J. T. Quick, Moderator.

J. D. Robertson, Clerk.

REPORT OF DEVOTIONAL COMMITTEE

Report of devotional committee: Friday night at 7:30 Rev. James Abbott. Saturday at 11:00 o'clock Rev. D. H. Davenport. Saturday night at 7:30. Rev. O. K. Morgan, Sunday at 11:00 o'clock, Rev. Ira D. Garrison. Called for conference. Called for peace and fellowship. Called for acknowledgments. Invitation to visiting Brethren. Invitation for membership. Call for complaints. Reading minutes of last conference. Are Pastors faithful in their duties; are officers faithful in their duties? General business.

ORDAINED MINISTERS

Rev. J. H. Holmes	Route One, Lacon, Ala.
Rev. W. C. Brown	Route One, Lacon, Ala.
Rev. J. T. Quick	Route One, Cullman, Ala.
Rev. J. M. Engle	Decatur, Ala.
Rev. W. L. Lindsey	Route One, Lacon, Ala.
Rev. W. H. Lawrence	Cullman, Ala.
Rev. T. J. Atkins	Route One, Lacon, Ala.
Rev. Tillman Brown	Unknown
Rev. W. M. Elms	Route One, Cullman, Ala.
Rev. James Abbott	Route One, Cullman
Rev. O. K. Morgan	Route One Cullman, Ala.
Rev. W. D. Knight	Route One, Cullman, Ala.
Rev. R. E. Barnes	Hanceville, Ala.
Rev. D. H. Davenport	Route One, Cullman, Ala.
Rev. J. A. Morgan	Route Two, Vinemont, Ala.

NAMES OF DELEGATES

D. B. Holmes, H. M. Bell, L. C. Brown, Eria Brown, W. J. Hall, L. E. Reeves, Edd Henry, C. L. Hale, J. L. Lawrence, Lena Nails, Albert Marring, J. H. Hames, Charlie Davis.

VISITING BRETHREN

From Bear Creek Association: Rev. Ira D. Garrison and wife and daughter.

CLERKS REPORT

Amount in Treasure	\$ 21.40
Paid out for printing minutes	16.00
Paid Clerk	5.00
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Total paid out	21.00
Balance on hand	40c

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 baptized 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 1941

CHURCHES	COUNTY	PASTOR	CLERKS AND THEIR POSTOFFICES	Days of meetings	Baptized	Received by confession	Received by letter	Restored	Deaths	Excluded	Dismissed by letter	Total Membership	Minutes funds
Ebenezer	Morgan	James Abbot.....	H. M. Bell, Rt. 1, Lacon, Ala.	4	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	2148	7.50
Union Hill	Morgan	W. L. Lindsey	W. J. Hall, Rt. 1, Falkville	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	40	3.00
Cedar Creek	Morgan	W. L. Lindsey	Olie Holmes, Rt. 3, Hartselle	2	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	37	1.50
Unity	Cullman	D. H. Davenport	Lena Nails, Rt. 2, Vinemont.....	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	39	1.35
Macedonia	Cullman	J. T. Quick	Bertha Tucker, Rt. 1, Cullman.....	3	1	0	0	0	2	3	0	78	3.00