

# MINUTES

— of the —

## FLINT RIVER

### FREEWILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

Convened With

EBENEZER CHURCH, MORGAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

SEPTEMBER 14, 15 AND 16, 1945

#### OFFICERS

Rev. W. L. Lindsey, Moderator ..... Lacon, Rt. 1, Alabama

H. M. Bell, Clerk ..... Lacon, Rt. 1, Alabama

The Next Session Of This Association Will Convene With Union Hill  
Church, Three Miles West of Eva, Morgan County,  
Alabama, on Friday Before the Third  
Sunday in September, 1946

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# MINUTES

The Sixty-Fourth Annual Session of the Flint River Freewill Baptist Association met with Ebenezer Church, Morgan County, Ala., on Friday before the third Sunday in September, 1945 at 11:00 o'clock.

The Introductory Sermon was preached by Rev. O. K. Morgan. Text used Phillipian the 2nd Chap. and 1st Verse.

At 2:00 o'clock the Minister and delegates assembled. After a song by the congregation and prayer by Rev. W. C. Brown, the house was called to order by the Moderator.

First: Visiting brethren were invited to seats with us.

Second: W. J. Hall was appointed Reading Clerk.

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

Fourth: Petitionary letters were called for and none.

Fifth: The Moderator appointed the following committees:

ON ORDER OF BUSINESS: Albert Marion, W. M. Brown, L. E. Reeves, H. A. Nails, Ed Henry together with the Moderator and Clerk.

ON FINANCE: J. H. Holmes, John Hames and Cozy Henry.

ON TEMPERANCE: O. K. Morgan, W. C. Brown, and J. T. Holmes.

ON CHARACTER OF MINISTERS: L. E. Reeves, Albert Marion and Ed Henry.

ON RESOLUTIONS: James Abbott, W. O. Marlow, and W. H. Goodwin.

ON OBITUARY: Dewey Holmes, W. L. Lindsey, and W. J. Hall.

DEVOTIONAL: L. L. Lindsey, Lillie Goad, and Annie Lee Hall.

Sixth: The Moderator declared the Association fully organized and made a surrender of his trust notifying the Association the office of Moderator and Clerk was vacant. Then the body proceeded to elect a Moderator and Clerk whereupon Rev. W. L. Lindsey was elected Moderator and H. M. Bell re-elected Clerk. After which the Association adjourned until Saturday morning at 8:00 o'clock.

## SECOND DAY

On Saturday morning the ministers and delegates assembled. After a song and prayer by Rev. Ira D. Garrison, the house was called to order by the Moderator.

First: Roll called and delegates seated.

Second: Visiting brethren were invited to seats with us.

Third: Called for report of Committee on Order of Business. Following is their report: That we take up the regular form of our minutes with any new business that may come before the body.

Respectfully submitted,

Albert Marion, Chairman.

Report adopted. Committee discharged.



Fourth: Called for report on character of ministers. Following is their report: That we find all our minister in good standing with churches and the Association. We appoint for Presbytery Rev. J. H. Holmes, O. K. Morgan and W. M. Elms.

Respectfully submitted,

Ed Henry, Chairman.

Report adopted, Committee discharged.

Fifth: Constitution and Rules of Decorum was 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 our ministers and shall have the power to appoint Presbytery for the purpose of ordaining ministers in our Association.

Eighth: Resolved that our ministers go and preach the gospel 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.

#### SATURDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

At 1:15 o'clock the Association met pursuant to adjournment after a song and prayer by Rev. W. O. Marlow.

First: Roll called, delegates seated.

Second; Visiting brethren were invited to seats with us.

Third: Called for report of Committee on Temperance. Following is their report. Be temperate in all your Godly deliberations with meekness of the spirit with all long suffering and forbearance toward God.

James Abbott, Chairman.

Report accepted: Committee discharged.

Fourth: Resolved that a church in the Flint River Association shall not receive members from 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 Church.

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 they cannot be permanently established.

Eight: Resolved that Deacons of a Church where a minister has his membership be required to assist the standing committee to investigate any rumor that might come against him.

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

Tenth: Resolved that this Association Communicate with Bear Creek, and the State Associations. Delegates to Bear Creek, Rev. W. O. Marlow, Rev. L. Lindsey and J. D. Robertson. State Association Ed Henry and J. D. Robertson.

Eleventh: Moved and carried that the next session of this Association be held with Union Hill Church Morgan County, Alabama, on Friday before the third Sunday in September 1946. And that Rev. James Abbott preach the Introductory Sermon. Alternate Rev. W. M. Elms.

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

Thirteenth: Called for report of Committee on Finance; We your Committee on Finance have collected \$32.10; find in treasury, \$11.25 Total, \$43.35.

J. H. Holmes, Chairman

Report accepted committee discharged.

Fourteenth: Called for report of Evangelist. No report received.

Fifteenth: Resolved that we have a Committee on Obituary and a discussion in memory of deceased members.

Sixteenth: Resolved that we drop the names of all ministers from our minutes who fail to attend or report to the Association for three years in succession.

Seventeenth: Moved and carried to liberate Rev. O. K. Morgan as Evangelist for the ensuing year.

Eighteenth: Resolved that the deacons of each church have voice in the Association as the delegates and ministers.

Nineteenth: Resolved that each minister make a report of his work and of the collections to the Association each year.

Twentieth: Resolved that we extend our thanks to Ebenezer Church and surrounding community for their hospitality shown us and may God's richest blessings be theirs.

Rev. W. L. Lindsey, Moderator,

H. M. Bell, Clerk.

Report of Obituary Committee: We find that three members have passed away since last Association, Sisters E. J. Millican, Sarah Segars, and Susie Guthery. We trust that our loss is Heaven's gain.

Respectfully submitted,

W. J. Hall, Chairman.



## MINISTERS REPORT

My report is as follows: pastored 2 churches, preached 51 sermons, held 2 communion services, devotional services 25 revivals 2, traveled 4,000 miles, expenses \$71.00, offerings received \$273.53. Funerals 2, couples married 1.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rev. J. T. Quick

My report is as follows: pastored 1 church, helped in 2 revivals, sermons preached 53 communion services 4, collected \$150.27, expenses \$48.02, miles traveled 2313.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rev. O. K. Morgan

My report is as follows: pastored 2 churches, preached 86 sermons, expenses \$45.00, received \$283.80.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rev. D. H. Davenport

Report of Devotional Committee: Friday night Rev. James Abbott at eight o'clock. Saturday at eleven o'clock Rev. P. J. Box. Saturday night at eight o'clock Rev. W. M. Elms, Rev. Ira. D. Garrison Sunday at eleven o'clock.

## CALL FOR CONFERENCE

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

## ORDAINED MINISTERS

Rev. J. H. Holmes .....	Lacon, Route 1, Ala.
Rev. W. C. Brown .....	Lacon, Route 1, Ala.
Rev. J. T. Quick .....	Gardendale, Ala.
Rev. J. M. Engle .....	Decatur, Ala.
Rev. W. L. Lindsey .....	Lacon, Route 1, Ala.
Rev. W. M. Elms .....	Cullman, Route 1, Ala.
Rev. James Abbott .....	Cullman, Route 1, Ala.
Rev. O. K. Morgan .....	Cullman, Route 1, Ala.
Rev. W. D. Knight .....	Cullman, Route 1, Ala.
Rev. D. H. Davenport .....	Cullman, Route 1, Ala.

## NAME OF DELEGATES

J. T. Holmes, W. M. Brown, Bethel Hall, Hubert Edwards, Cora Runge, Annie Lee Hall, Rosa Hill, Cozy Henry, Lillie Goad, H. A. Nails, Unadee Holmes, Barbra Hayne, Albert Marion, E. H. Hines, Vernia Hines.

## VISITING BRETHREN

Rev. Ira. D. Garrison, Rev. P. J. Box, Coy Stracener.

## CLERK'S REPORT

Amount in Treasury .....	\$43.35
Paid for printing minutes .....	20.00
Paid Clerk .....	5.00
Total paid out .....	25.00
Balance on hand .....	\$18.35

## LICENCED MINISTERS

W. H. Goodwin

## 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 Christain principal sacred.

## RULE 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 composing 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 conditions 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.

Articles 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 cannot 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 1944

CHURCHES	COUNTY	PASTORS	CLERKS AND THEIR POSTOFFICES	Days of Meeting	Baptised	Received by Confession	Received by Letter	Restored	Deaths	Excluded	Dismissed by Letter	Total Membership	Minute Funds
Ebenezer	Morgan	D. H. Davenport	J. D. Robertson, Lacon, R. 1, Ala...	4	3	1	0	0	1	0	0	163	\$10.00
Union Hill	Morgan	James Abbott	Leonard Taylor, Falkville, R. 1, Ala	3	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	40	4.00
Cedar Creek	Morgan	O. K. Morgan	Lillie Goad, Hartselle, Ala.,	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	44	3.00
Unity	Cullman	W. L. Lindsey	Lena Nails, Vinemont, R. 2, Ala...	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	44	7.00
Macedonia	Cullman	W. L. Lindsey	Pauline Tucker, Cullman, R. 1, Ala	3	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	69	8.10