

# MINUTES

—OF THE—

Seventy-First Annual Session

—OF THE—

## FLINT RIVER FREEWILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

CONVENED WITH

### UNITY CHURCH

Cullman County, Alabama

SEPTEMBER 19 - 20 - 21, 1952

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#### OFFICERS

Rev. F. L. Thomas, Moderator ..... Route 1, Cullman, Alabama  
J. D. Robertson, Clerk ..... Route 1, Lacon, Alabama

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The Next Session of this Association will Convene with Macedonia Church, Cullman County, Alabama, 10 Miles Southwest of Cullman on the Bremen Road, on Friday before the Third Sunday in September, 1953.

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## MINUTES

The Seventy-First Annual Session of the Flint River Freewill Baptist Association convened with Unity Freewill Baptist Church, Cullman County, Alabama, on Friday before the third Sunday in September, 1952.

At 11 o'clock the introductory sermon was preached by Rev. O. K. Morgan. Text used, 10th Chapter of Romans.

At 1:00 o'clock, after singing by the Congregation, and prayer by Rev. Finis Thomas, the house was called to order by Moderator protem, Rev. O. K. Morgan, and business was transacted as follows:

First: Visiting Brethren were invited to seats with us.

Second: Evelyn McGraw 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 were seated.

Fourth: Petitionary letters were called for and none received.

Fifth: The Moderator appointed the following committees:

On Order of Business—Bill Foot, L. L. Lindsey, H. A. Nails, James Abbott, B. Y. Hall, together with Moderator and Clerk.

On Character of Ministers—E. D. Henry, L. L. Lindsey, D. B. Holmes.

On Temperance—Herman Hale, James Abbott, Rosie Hill.

On Resolution—Ede Hill, Rosa Clemons, B. Y. Hall.

On Finance—J. M. Maddux, Donald Evans, R. T. Speegle.

On Obituary—C. R. Ammon, W. O. Marlow, L. E. Reeves.

On Devotion—W. E. Grant, Ed Henry, Avery Eargle.

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 Association proceeded to elect a Moderator and Clerk, whereupon Rev. F. L. Thomas was elected Moderator, and J. D. Robertson was elected Clerk. After appropriate remarks by each, the Association adjourned until Saturday morning at nine o'clock.

### SECOND DAY

On Saturday morning at nine o'clock, the ministers, deacons and delegates reassembled. After singing by the congregation and prayer by H. L. Davenport, the Association 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: We, your Committee on Order of Business beg leave to report as follows:

That we take up the regular form of our old Minutes with any new business that may come before the Association.

Willie B. Foot, Chairman

Report adopted, committee discharged.

Fourth: Called for report of Committee on Character of Ministers. Following is their report:

We, your Committee on Character of Ministers, find all our ministers in good standing, and we appoint Rev. O. K. Morgan, D. H. Davenport, W. O. Marlow for Presbytery.

Respectfully submitted,

E. D. Henry, Chairman

Report adopted, committee retained.

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 our 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 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 advise the various churches in our Association to remunerate 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 for preaching at 11:00 o'clock. Benediction by Coleman Holmes.

At 1:00 o'clock the Association met pursuant to the adjournment. After a song by the congregation, and prayer by Rev. O. K. Morgan, the Association was called to order by the Moderator. Business was transacted as follows:

First: Roll called, and delegates seated.

Second: Visiting brethren invited to seats with us.

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

Be temperate in all your Godly Deliberation with meekness of the spirit with all long suffering and forbearance toward God.

Respectfully submitted,

A. H. Hale, Chairman

Report adopted, 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 can not 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 can not be permanently established.

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

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

Tenth: Resolved that the Association communicate with Bear Creek Association by the following named delegates: Rev. James Abbott, L. L. Lindsey, C. R. Ammons, Rev. O. K. Morgan, Avery Eargle.

Eleventh: Resolved that a licensed minister preach under his license and one year before he is ordained.

Twelfth: Called for report of Committee on Finance. We, your Committee on Finance, have collected \$48.00, found in treasury \$15.-40, total \$63.40.

Respectfully submitted,

J. H. Maddux, Chairman

Report adopted, committee discharged.

Thirteenth: Called for report of Obituary Committee. We, your Committee, find that seven members have passed away since our last Association: Sister Josie McCombs and Brother John Hames from Macedonia Church; Sisters Alice Braswell, Brother Henry Fortenberry, Brother J. Hugh Millican from Union Hill Church; and Sister Annie Smallwood and Brother Emmett Shaneyfelt from Cedar Creek Church. We recommend the following Brothers to speak in their memory: Rev. O. K. Morgan for Sister McCombs, Rev. D. H. Davenport for Bro. Hames, Rev. F. L. Thomas for Sister Braswell, Rev. James Abbott for Bro. Fortenberg, Rev. W. O. Marlow for Bro. Millican, Bro. E. D. Henry for Sister Smallwood, and Bro. Shaneyfelt.

Respectfully submitted,

C. R. Ammons, Chairman

Report adopted, committee discharged.

Fourteenth: 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.

Fifteenth: Resolved that we allow the Clerk of the Association \$15.00 for his services.

Sixteenth: Moved and carried that we have an evangelist for the ensuing year where upon Rev. F. L. Thomas elected evangelist for the ensuing year.

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

Eighteenth: Called for report of Committee on Devotion. Following is their report: Friday night at 7 o'clock Devotional by Sister Travis Holmes. Sermon by Rev. James Abbott.

Saturday at 10:30 o'clock, devotional by Evyon Robertson, sermon by Rev. F. L. Thomas.

Saturday night 7:30 o'clock, devotional by Donald Evans, sermon by Rev. W. O. Marlow.

Sunday at 10:00 o'clock, devotional by L. L. Lindsey, sermon by Rev. D. H. Davenport.

W. E. Grant, Chairman

Report adopted, committee discharged.

Nineteenth: Ministers report. This is my report for the past year: Pastored two churches; preached 126 sermons; conducted 13 funerals; baptized 28; miles traveled, 1,873; expense, \$119.80; received \$2,033.55.

Rev. D. H. Davenport

This is my report for past year: Held two revivals; preached 63 sermons; married two couples; conducted two funerals; traveled 1,330 miles; collected \$144.57; expenses, \$37.95; charity, \$42.95.

Rev. F. L. Thomas

This is my report for the past year: Pastored one church; preached 23 sermons; conducted two funerals; traveled 610 miles; received \$63.25; expenses, \$14.25.

Rev. W. O. Marlow

Twentieth: Resolved that the next session of this Association be held with Macedonia Freewill Baptist Church, Cullman County, Alabama, commencing on Friday before the third Sunday in September, 1953, and that Rev. D. H. Davenport preach the introductory sermon. Alternate, Rev. O. K. Morgan.

Twenty-one: Resolved that we extend our thanks to Unity Church and surrounding community for their hospitality shown us. May God's richest blessings be theirs.

Rev. F. L. Thomas, Moderator

J. D. Robertson, Clerk

#### CALL FOR CONFERENCE

1. Called for peace and fellowship.
2. Called for acknowledgements.
3. Invitation to visiting brethren.
4. Invitation for membership.
5. Called 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. F. L. Thomas, ..... Cullman, Route 1, Alabama  
Rev. J. H. Holmes ..... Lacon, Route 1, Alabama  
Rev. W. L. Lindsey ..... 65 Amber Dr., R. D. 2, Akron 12, Ohio  
Rev. W. M. Elms ..... Cullman, Route 1, Alabama  
Rev. James Abbott ..... Cullman, Route 1, Alabama  
Rev. O. K. Morgan ..... Vinemont, Route 2, Alabama  
Rev. D. H. Davenport ..... Cullman, Route 1, Alabama  
Rev. W. O. Marlow ..... Falkville, Route 1, Alabama

### NAMES OF DELEGATES

Ebenezer Church—W. E. Grant, A. H. Hale, B. G. Hall.  
Union Hill Church—J. H. Maddux, Donald Evans, Avery Ear-  
gle.  
Cedar Creek Church—Bill Foot, Rosa Hill, Ede Hill.  
Unity Church—H. A. Nails, Aner Holmes, Rosa Clemons.  
Macedonia Church—H. L. Davenport, R. F. Speegle, Evelyn  
McGraw.

### ORDAINED DEACONS

Ebenezer Church—L. C. Brown, J. N. Lindsey, D. B. Holmes, C.  
C. Brown, W. H. Bell.  
Union Hill Church—L. E. Reeves, L. L. Lindsey, J. D. Robert-  
son, C. R. Ammons.  
Cedar Creek Church—E. D. Henry, Colmon Holmes, Albert  
Henry.  
Unity Church—R. J. Moore, Roy Hale.  
Macedonia Church—E. Z. Tucker, Freed Speegle.

### VISITING DELEGATES

Rev. P. J. Box, from Bear Creek Association

### CLERK'S REPORT

Amount in Treasury .....	\$63.40
Paid for Printing Minutes .....	37.50
Paid Clerk .....	15.00
Total Paid Out .....	52.50
Balance on Hand .....	\$10.90

### 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 principle 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 on 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 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 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 1952

Minute Funds	.....	0	85	\$10.00
Total Membership	.....	0	85	15.00
Excluded	.....	0	2	116
Dismissed by Letter	.....	2	2	0
Deaths	.....	0	3	2
Restored	.....	0	0	0
Received by Letter	.....	0	6	0
Baptized	.....	0	24	4
Received by confession	.....	0	2	4
Days of Meeting	.....	4	1-3	2-4
			1	1
			3	0
CHURCHES	COUNTY	PASTORS	CLERKS AND THEIR POSTOFFICES	
Ebenezer	Morgan	James Abbott	B. G. Hall, Falkville 1, Ala.	
Union Hill	Morgan	D. H. Davenport	J. D. Robertson, Lacon 1, Ala.	
Cedar Creek	Morgan	D. H. Davenport	Annie M. Murphy Hartselle 3, Ala.	
Unity	Cullman	James Abbott	Lena Nails, Vinemont 2, Ala.	
Macedonia	Cullman	W. O. Marlow	Evelyn McGraw, Cullman, Ala.	

390