

MINUTES

— Of The —

Seventy-Fourth Annual Session

— Of The —

FLINT RIVER FREEWILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

Convened With

EBENEZER CHURCH

Morgan County, Alabama

SEPTEMBER 16-17-18, 1955

OFFICERS

Rev. D. H. Davenport, Moderator ----- Rt. 1, Cullman, Ala.

J. D. Robertson, Clerk ----- Rt. 3, Falkville, Ala.

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, 1956.

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MINUTES

The Seventy-Fourth Annual Session of the Flint River Freewill Baptist Association convened with Ebenezer Church, Morgan County, Alabama, on Friday before the third Sunday in September, 1955.

At 11 o'clock the introductory sermon was preached by Rev. D. H. Davenport, text, Deuteronomy 32nd chapter, 22nd verse. At 1 o'clock after a song by the congregation, and prayer by Rev. J. H. Holmes, the house was called to order by the Moderator pro tem, Rev. D. H. Davenport, and business was transacted as follows:

First: Visiting brethren were invited to seats with us.

Second: Kathryn Foote was appointed reading clerk.

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

Fourth: Petitionary letters called for and none received.

Fifth: The Moderator appointed the following committees:

On Order of Business—J. H. Maddux, Orvel Swan, Joyice Holmes, H. M. Bell, Barbara Hannie.

On Character of Ministers—J. H. Maddux, E. W. Henry, J. N. Lindsey.

On Temperance—F. L. Thomas, L. B. Taylor, O. K. Morgan.

On Resolutions—Willie Heatherly, Avery Eargles, James Abbott.

On Finance—Uner Dee Holmes, Fred Murphy, Roy Foster.

On Obituary—Kathryn Foote, L. E. Reeves, Coleman Holmes.

On Devotion—H. L. Davenport, Tom Holmes, Travis Holmes.

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. D. H. Davenport was elected Moderator, J. D. Robertson re-elected clerk. After appropriate remarks, by both, the Association adjourned until 9 o'clock Saturday morning.

SECOND DAY

On Saturday morning at 9 o'clock the Association reassembled. After singing by the congregation and prayer by Rev. O. K. Morgan, the Association was called to order by the Moderator.

First: Roll called and delegates seated.

Second: Visiting brethren invited to seats with us.

Third: Called for report of Committee on Order of Business. 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 body.

Respectfully submitted,
J. H. Maddux, 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, Rev. D. H. Davenport, Rev. W. O. Marlow for Presbytery.

Respectfully submitted,
L. L. Lindsey, 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 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 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 advise the various churches in our Association to remunerate their pastors for their service.

Eleventh: Resolved that we do not allow ministers to preach in our churches that do not believe in an organic church.

The Association adjourned for preaching at 11 o'clock. Benediction by Tom Holmes.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON

At 1 o'clock the Association met pursuant to adjournment. After a song by the congregation and prayer by Coleman Holmes, 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.

We your Committee on Temperance beg leave to report as follows: That we abstain from all intemperance with meekness of the spirit by staying away from all worldly amusements with long suffering and forbearance toward God.

Respectfully submitted,
F. L. Thomas, Chairman

Report adopted, committee discharged.

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

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 where a minister has his membership be required to assist the Standing Committee in investigating and rumors that come against him.

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

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

Eleventh: Called for report of Committee on Finance,
We your Committee on Finance have collected \$57.00 and find in the treasury \$11.89. Total \$68.89.

Respectfully submitted,
Fred Murphy, Chairman

Report adopted, committee discharged.

Twelfth: Called for report of Committee on Obituary.

We your Committee, find that six members have passed away since our last Association: From Union Hill, Bro. Leander Evans, Sister P. C. Taylor; from Macedonia, Rev. W. D. Knight; from Ebenezer, Bro. J. H. Brown, J. T. Holmes; from Unity, Bro. Ervan Aldridge.

We recommend the following brethren to speak in their memory: Rev. James Abbott for Sister Taylor and Bro. Brown; Rev. D. H. Davenport for Bro. Evans; Rev. O. K. Morgan for Bro. Knight; Rev. Joe H. Holmes for Bro. Holmes; Bro. W. O. Marlow for Bro. Aldridge.

Respectfully submitted,
Coleman Holmes, Chairman

Report adopted, committee discharged.

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

Fourteenth: Resolved that we have an evangelist for the ensuing year, and Rev. W. O. Marlow was elected evangelist.

Fifteenth: Resolved that the Deacons of each church have a voice in the Association as the Delegates and Ministers.

Sixteenth: Resolved that the Committee on Character of Ministers shall be ordained deacons.

Seventeenth: Resolved that the deacons and members of the churches visit the homes of their pastors at least once a year.

Eighteenth: Resolved that the Moderator of this Association shall not appoint anyone on a committee that is not present at the sessions.

Nineteenth: Resolved that the next session of this Association be held with Union Hill Church, three miles west of Eva, Morgan County, Alabama. Commencing on Friday before the third Sunday in September, 1956, and that Rev. F. L. Thomas preach the introductory sermon. Alternate, Rev. W. O. Marlow.

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

Rev. D. H. Davenport, Moderator
J. D. Robertson, Clerk

Twenty-first: Report of Devotional Committee:
Friday night devotion by Lonnie Robertson, sermon by Rev. D. H. Davenport.

Saturday morning devotion by L. L. Lindsey, sermon by Rev. O. K. Morgan.

Saturday night devotion Uner D. Holmes, sermon by Rev. F. L. Thomas.

Sunday morning on devotion Florence Hale, sermon by Rev. James Abbott.

ORDAINED DEACONS

Ebenezer—L. C. Brown, J. N. Lindsey, D. B. Holmes, W. H. Bell, C. C. Brown.

Union Hill—L. E. Reeves, L. L. Lindsey, J. D. Robertson, Birton Brown, D. D. Lindsey, J. H. Maddux, H. A. Reeves.

Cedar Creek—E. W. Henry. Coleman Holmes. Albert Henry, Bud Hill.

Unity—Roy Hale, B. L. Moon.

Macedonia—E. Z. Tucker, R. F. Speegle.

ORDAINED MINISTERS

Rev. J. H. Holmes	Route 3, Falkville, Alabama
Rev. W. L. Lindsey	Route 1, Magadore, Box 13, Ohio
Rev. O. K. Morgan	Route 2, Vinemont, Alabama
Rev. W. M. Elms	Route 1, Cullman, Alabama
Rev. James Abbott	Route 1, Cullman, Alabama
Rev. D. H. Davenport	Route 1, Cullman, Alabama
Rev. W. O. Marlow	Route 1, Falkville, Alabama
Rev. F. L. Thomas	Route 1, Cullman, Alabama
Rev. C. A. Martin	Route 1, Cullman, Alabama

Licensed Minister — Isaac England

DELEGATES

Ebenezer—H. M. Bell, B. G. Hall, Travis Holmes.
Union Hill—Tom Holmes, L. B. Taylor, Avery Eargle.
Cedar Creek—Fred Murphy, Kathryn Foote, Joyice Holmes.
Unity—Roy Foster, Uner Dee Holmes, Barbara Hannie.
Macedonia—H. L. Davenport, Orvel Swan, Willie Heatherly.

CLERK'S REPORT

Amount in Treasury	\$68.89
Paid out for Printing Minutes	38.11
Paid Clerk	15.00
Total Paid Out	\$53.11
Balance on Hand	15.78

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, every one, 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 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 rules 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 shall 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 1955

CHURCHES	COUNTY	PASTORS	CLERKS AND THEIR POSTOFFICES	Minute Funds.....
Ebenezer.....	Morgan.....	F. L. Thomas.....	B. G. Hall, Falkville 1, Ala.	\$15.00
Union Hill.....	Morgan.....	O. K. Morgan.....	J. D. Robertson, Falkville 3, Ala..	\$15.00
Cedar Creek.....	Morgan.....	D. H. Davenport.....	Carolyn Holloway, H'selle 3, Ala..	\$12.00
Unity.....	Cullman.....	James Abbott.....	Rosie Clemons, Vinemont 2, Ala..	\$ 5.00
Macedonia.....	Cullman.....	F. L. Thomas.....	Lou Ellen Speegle, Cullman 1, Ala.	\$10.00
Total Membership.....				87
Excluded.....				0
Dismissed by Letter.....				1
Deaths.....				2
Restored.....				0
Received by Letter.....				0
Baptized.....				3
Rec'd by Confession.....				1
Days of Meeting.....				2-4
				1-3
				1,2,3,4
				1-3
				1-3