

MINUTES

— Of The —

Seventy-Sixth Annual Session

— Of The —

FLINT RIVER FREEWILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

Convened With

UNITY CHURCH

Cullman County, Alabama

SEPTEMBER 13-14-15, 1957

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 Macedonia Church, Cullman County, Ala., 9 miles west on the Cullman and Jasper Highway on Friday before the third Sunday in September, 1958.

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MINUTES

The Seventy-Sixth Annual Session of the Flint River Freewill Baptist Association convened with Unity Church, Cullman County, Alabama, on Friday before the third Sunday in September, 1957.

At 11 o'clock the Introductory Sermon was preached by Rev. W. O. Marlow; text St. Matthew 7th Chapter, 21-22-23 verses.

At 1:15 o'clock after a song by the congregation and prayer by Bro. Paul Jones, the Association was called to order by the Moderator, Rev. D. H. Davenport.

First: Visiting brethren were invited to seats with us.

Second: Bro. Paul Jones 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 received.

Fifth: The Moderator appointed the following committees:

On Order of Business: Willie Heatherly, L. L. Lindsey, Rosie Clemons, B. G. Hall, Joyce Holmes.

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

On Temperance: O. K. Morgan, H. L. Davenport, H. M. Bell.

On Resolutions: F. L. Thorns, Dennis Reeves, W. T. Holmes.

On Finance: L. E. Robertson, O. L. Long, Avery Eargle.

On Obituary: Evie Pike, H. A. Hale, Elsie Brown.

On Devotion: Flora Hale, B. G. Hall, Paul Jones.

Sixth: The Moderator declared the Association fully organized and made a surrender of his trust, notifying the Association that the office of the Moderator and Clerk were vacant. Then the Association proceeded to elect a Moderator and Clerk. Whereupon, Rev. D. H. Davenport was re-elected Moderator and J. D. Robertson was 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 a song by the congregation and prayer by Rev. Dennis Reeves, the Association was called to order by the Moderator.

First: Roll Called and the Delegates seated.

Second: Visiting brethren were 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,
Willie Heatherly, Chairman

Report adopted, committee discharged.

Fourth: Called for report of Committee on Character of Ministers.

We, your Committee on Character of Ministers find all our ministers in good standing. We appoint Revs. Dennis Reeves, D. H. Davenport, W. O. Marlow for Presbytery.

Respectfully submitted,
J. N. 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 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 Rev. Joe H. Holmes.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON

At 1:15 o'clock the Association met pursuant to adjournment. After a song by the congregation and prayer by L. L. Lindsey, 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 beg leave to report as follows: That we abstain from intemperance, with meekness of the spirit by staying away from all worldly amusements, with long suffering and forbearance toward God.

Respectfully submitted,
H. L. Davenport, 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 any rumors that may come against him.

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

Tenth: Called for report of the Committee on Finance. We, your Committee on Finance have collected \$60.30 and found in treasury \$21.32. Total \$81.62.

Respectfully submitted,
L. E. Robertson, Chairman

Report adopted, Committee discharged.

Eleventh: Called for report of Committee on Obituary. We find that we have three members passed away since our last Association.

From Union Hill—Sister Mary E. Fortenberry, Sister Lillian Eubanks.

From Unity—Brother William Southern.

We recommend the following brethren to speak in their memory: For Sister Fortenberry, Rev. F. L. Thomas; for Sister Eubanks, Rev. Joe H. Holmes; for Brother Southern, Rev. James Abbot.

Respectfully submitted,
Evie Pike, Chairman

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

Called for report of the Resolutions Committee. We, your Committee have no resolution to offer.

Respectfully submitted,
F. L. Thomas, Chairman

Report adopted, committee discharged.

Thirteenth: Resolved, that we have an Evangelist for the ensuing year. Rev. W. O. Marlow was elected Evangelist.

Fourteenth: Resolved, that the Deacons have a voice in the Association as the delegates and ministers.

Fifteenth: Resolved, that the Committee on Character of Ministers shall be Ordained Deacons.

Sixteenth: Resolved, that the Deacons and members of the churches visit the home of their pastor at least once a year.

Seventeenth: Resolved, that the Moderator shall not appoint any one on a committee who is not present at that session.

Eighteenth: Resolved, that the next session of this Association be held with Macedonia Church, 9 miles west of Cullman on Jasper Highway 69, Cullman County, Alabama, on Friday before the third Sunday in September, 1958, and that Rev. Dennis Reeves preach the introductory sermon. Alternate, Rev. D. H. Davenport.

Nineteenth: Resolved, that we extend our thanks to Unity Church and the surrounding community for their hospitality shown us. May God's richest blessing be theirs

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

Benediction by J. D. Robertson.

Report of Devotional Committee:

FRIDAY NIGHT

Devotion—J. H. Maddux

Sermon—Rev. Dennis Reeves

SATURDAY MORNING

Devotion—Lonnie Robertson

Sermon—Rev. O. K. Morgan

SATURDAY NIGHT

Devotion—L. L. Lindsey

Sermon—Rev. D. H. Davenport

SUNDAY MORNING

Devotion—J. D. Robertson

Sermon—Rev. James Abbott

Florence Hale, Chairman

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, Bill Foot.

Unity—Roy Hale, R. L. Moon.

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

ORDAINED MINISTERS

Rev. J. H. Holmes	Rt. 3, Falkville, Alabama
Rev. O. K. Morgan	Rt. 2, Vinemont, Alabama
Rev. James Abbott	Rt. 1, Cullman, Alabama
Rev. D. H. Davenport	Rt. 1, Cullman, Alabama
Rev. W. O. Marlow	Rt. 1, Falkville, Alabama
Rev. F. L. Thomas	Rt. 1, Cullman, Alabama
Rev. C. A. Martin	Cullman, Alabama
Rev. Dennis Reeves	Rt. 2, Vinemont, Alabama

LICENSED MINISTERS

Rev. Isaac England

Rev. George C. Williams

DELEGATES

Ebenezer—H. M. Bell, H. A. Hale, Florence Hale.

Union Hill—W. T. Holmes, O. L. Long, Avery Eargles.

Cedar Creek—Paul Jones, Evie Pike, Joyce Holmes.

Unity—Aner Holmes, Elsie Brown.

Macedonia—H. L. Davenport, Willie Heatherly, L. E. Robertson.

CLERK'S REPORT

Amount in Treasury	\$81.62
Printing of Minutes	39.65
Paid Clerk	15.00
Total Paid Out	\$54.65
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Balance on Hand	\$26.97

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 someone 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 is 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 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 1957

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	F. L. Thomas.....	O. L. Long, Falkville 1, Ala.	15.00
Cedar Creek	Morgan	D. H. Davenport	Betty Hollaway, Hartselle 3, Ala. 1,2,3,4	15.00
Unity	Cullman	Dennis Reeves ..	Rosie Clemons, Vinemont 2, Ala. 1-3	5.30
Macedonia	Cullman	James Abbott ..	Evelyn McGraw, Cullman 1, Ala. 1-3	10.00
Total Membership				87
Excluded				2
Dismissed by Letter..				0
Deaths				0
Restored				0
Received by Letter....				0
Baptized				1
Rec'd by Confession..				1
Days of Meeting				2-4

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