

ERNEST R. BOWEN  
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NASHVILLE, TENN. 37205

# MINUTES

*Of The*

**EIGHTY-FIRST ANNUAL SESSION**

*Of The*

**FLINT RIVER FREEWILL  
BAPTIST ASSOCIATION**

*Convened With*

**UNITY CHURCH  
CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA**

**September 14, 15, 16, 1962**

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## *Officers*

Rev. F. L. Thomas, Moderator..... Rt. 1, Cullman, Ala.

O. L. Long, Clerk..... Rt. 1, Falkville, Ala.

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## MINUTES

The eighty-first annual session of the Flint River, Freewill Baptist Association convened with Unity Church, Cullman County, Alabama, on Friday before the third Sunday in September of 1962 at 11:00 o'clock after a song by the congregation and prayer by Rev. Harvel Smith.

The introductory sermon was preached by Rev. F. L. Thomas, text Amos fourth chapter, 12th verse.

### Friday Afternoon

At 1:00 o'clock after a song by the congregation and prayer by Rev. Dennis Reeves.

The house was called to order by the moderator Rev. W. O. Marlow.  
First: Ministers and Deacons seated.

Second: Sister Florence Hale was appointed reading clerk.

Third: Visiting Brethren invited to seats with us.

Fourth: Letters called for from the various churches and intelligence was received from six churches. Letters were read and Delegates seated.

Fifth: Petitionary letter called for and received, two.

Sixth: The moderator appointed the following committees:

On order of business: Herman Hale, W. T. Holmes, & E. D. Henry

On character of ministers: L. L. Lindsey, H. L. Davenport, & L. C. Headrick.

On Temperance: F. L. Thomas, James Waldrop, & James Abbott.

On Resolution: J. T. Quick, George Mabry, Dennis Reeves.

On Finance: J. H. Maddux, Elmon Holaway, Odean Yates.

On Obituary: Florence Hale, Marie Hardy, Ruth Headrick.

On Devotion: Albert Morican, Henry Hines, O. L. Long.

Seventh: The moderator declared the association fully organized and made a surrender of his trust notifying the association that the officers of moderator and clerk were vacant. The association proceeded to elect a moderator and clerk, where upon Rev. F. L. Thomas was elected moderator and O. L. Long was elected clerk. After appropriate remarks by both, the association adjourned until 9:00 o'clock Saturday morning.

Benediction by Rev. Key.

### Second Day

On Saturday morning at 9:00 o'clock the association reassembled after song by the congregation and prayer by Rev. Harvel Smith. The association was called to order by the moderator.

First: Roll called, Ministers, Deacons, and Delegates seated.

Second: Visiting Brethren invited to seat 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 other new business that may come before the body.

Respectfully submitted,

Herman Hale, 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, except S. O. Farrell. We find that he has turned in his

credentials. And ask to be dismissed from Union Hill Church. We advise the association to dismiss him from our minutes. We also appoint for presbytery, Rev. F. L. Thomas, Rev. Dennis Reeves, Rev. Harvel Smith.

Respectfully submitted,

L. L. Lindsey, Chairman

Report adopted: committee discharged.

Fifth: Constitution and rules and decorum were read and the union perpetuated.

Sixth: Resolved that our ministers shall not baptize people who do not believe in an organized 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 that oppose the constitution and articles of faith.

Tenth: Resolved that we advise the various churches in our association to remember their pastors for their service.

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

The association adjourned at 11:00 o'clock for preaching.

Benediction by: Lee, Headrick.

### Saturday Afternoon

At 1:00 o'clock the association met pursuant to adjournment after a song by the congregation and prayer by Rev. Lewis Perry.

The association was called to order by the moderator. Business transaction was as follows:

First: Roll called and delegates seated.

Second: Visiting brethren invited to seat with us.

Third: Called for report of committee on temperance.

We your committee on temperance beg leave to report as follows: I Corinthians! "and every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. We recommend that we commit ourselves to temperance (1) in bodily appetite. (2) by modest dress. (3) by normal consumption of food. (4) by total abstinence from all alcoholic beverages. (5) by using habit forming drugs only when necessary. (6) by practicing proper health habits.

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 can not set forth the doctrine of the Free Will 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 rumor that may come against him.

Ninth: Resolved that a church shall not call for a pastor, a minister who has not been ordained.

Tenth: Call for report of committee on finance.

We, your finance committee, have collected \$99.00 and found in treasury \$63.72, total \$162.72.

J. H. Maddux, Chairman.

Report adopted, committee discharged.

Eleventh: Call for report of committee on obituary.

We, your committee find that six members have passed away since last association. They are as follows:

From Union Hill, Rev. O. K. Morgan and Sister Martha Ann Puckett.

From Macedonia, Bro. Albert Trussell and Sister Ester Triptau.

From Ebenezer, Sister Lilly Bell.

From Unity, Bro. Cephas Holmes.

We recommend the following brethren to speak in their memory: For Sister Bell, Rev. F. L. Thomas; For Bro. Cephas Holmes, Rev. Dennis Reeves; For Bro. Trussell, Rev. F. L. Thomas; For Sister Triptau, Rev. J. T. Quick; For Rev. O. K. Morgan, Rev. Harvel Smith; For Sister Martha Ann Puckett, Bro. J. D. Roberson.

Florence Hale, Chairman.

Report adopted: committee discharged.

Twelfth: Resolved that we allow the clerk of this association \$15.00 for his service.

Thirteenth: Resolved that we have an evangelist for the ensuing year. Rev. Charles Lindsey was elected evangelist.

Fourteenth: Resolved that the deacons and clerks of each church 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 moderator shall not appoint anyone on a committee who is not present at that time.

Seventeenth: Resolved that we give our ministers a card certifying their standing after the character committee finds them in good standing and that the moderator and clerk sign them.

Eighteenth: Called for report of resolution committee.

We beg leave to report as follows:

Resolution 1. Resolved that our churches do not receive members from any other church who have been excluded until they make acknowledgement to the church they were excluded from.

Resolution 2. Resolved that each minister and deacon that cannot be present at the association present a letter telling why.

Resolution 3. Resolved that any minister regardless of what faith he might be, that presents himself to the association must be examined by the presbytery.

Resolution 4. Resolved that if any member without providential reasons absents himself from the meetings of the church or refuses its support for one year, it is considered a violation of the covenant and sufficient reasons for dismissal or put on inactive list. Until proved himself active.

Resolution 5. Resolved that we have an assistant moderator and clerk for the association where upon Rev. Dennis Reeves was elected assistant moderator and Bro. Colman Holmes was elected assistant clerk.

Resolution 6. Resolved that the Flint River Association of the Free Will Baptist be represented by letter and delegates in the Alabama State Association of the Free Will Baptist.

Delegates to the State Association are as follows:

Bro. Colman Holmes, Sister Joyce Holmes, Sister Lillie Pruitt, Bro. Elmon Holaway, Sister Clyde Holaway, Sister Evie Pike, Bro. Herman Hale.

Rev. Harvel Smith, Chairman.

Report adopted, committee discharged.

Nineteenth: Resolved that the next session of this association be held with Macedonia Church, 8 miles from Cullman on old 69 highway, in Cullman County, Alabama, on Friday before the third Sunday in September 1963 and the Rev. Lewis Perry preach the introductory sermon. Alternate: Rev. Dennis Reeves.

Twentieth: Resolved that we extend our thanks to Unity Church and surrounding community for their hospitality shown us. May Gods richest blessings be theirs.

Rev. F. L. Thomas, Moderator.

O. L. Long, Clerk.

Benediction Rev. W. O. Marlow.

#### FRIDAY NIGHT

Devotion.....George Mabry  
Sermon.....Rev. James Waldrop

#### SATURDAY MORNING

Devotion.....Rev. J. T. Quick  
Sermon.....Rev. Harvel Smith

#### SATURDAY NIGHT

Devotion.....J. D. Roberson  
Sermon.....Rev. Lewis Perry

#### SUNDAY MORNING

Devotion.....Homer Davenport  
Sermon.....Rev. Dennis Reeves

Respectfully submitted,  
Henry Hines, Chairman.

### Ordained Deacons

EBENEZER — L. C. Brown, D. B. Holmes, J. N. Lindsey, W. H. Bell,  
C. C. Brown, Jesse Miller

UNION HILL — L. E. Reeves, L. L. Lindsey, J. D. Robertson, D. D.  
Lindsey, J. H. Maddux, H. A. Reeves

CEDAR CREEK — Albert Henry, Bill Foot, Bud Hill.

UNITY — Roy Hale, R. L. Moon, J. D. Clemons.

MACEDONIA — R. F. Speegle, E. H. Hines, H. L. Davenport, Venton  
Eady.

FRIENDSHIP — Max Morgan, John Smith.

LAODICIA — Lee Headrick, William F. Nail, Joe D. Hudson.

PLEASANT HILL — 3 try deacons, Clover Starns, Russell Horton, C. L.  
Starns.



## Ordained Ministers

Rev. J. H. Holmes	Rt. 3, Falkville, Ala.
Rev. James Abbott	Rt. 1, Cullman, Ala.
Rev. F. L. Thomas	Rt. 1, Cullman, Ala.
Rev. C. A. Martin	Cullman, Ala.
Rev. Dennis Reeves	Rt. 2, Vinemont, Ala.
Rev. J. T. Quick	Rt. 1, Cullman, Ala.
Rev. Roy Patterson	Rt. 1, Falkville, Ala.
Rev. Harvel Smith	Rt. 2, Vinemont, Ala.
Rev. Jess Hann	Hanceville, Ala.
Rev. Charles Lindsey	Rt. 1, Falkville, Ala.
Rev. Lewis Perry	Rt. 3, Hartselle, Ala.

## Licensed Ministers

Isaac England — Wayne Nails — Roy Watts

## Delegates

EBENEZER — Herman Hale, Florence Hale, Debera Hale.  
UNION HILL — Elmon Holaway, W. T. Holmes, Lederal Buckelew.  
CEDAR CREEK — Colman Holmes, E. D. Henry, Lillie Pruitt.  
UNITY — Odean Yates, Bassell Eargle, Margie Yates.  
MACEDONIA — Henry Hines, Albert Murian, Oscar Lay.  
FRIENDSHIP — George Smith.  
PLEASANT HILL — Marie Hardy, Patricia Cullwille, Fay Storna.  
LAODICIA — Ruth Headrick.

## Called for Conference

1. Called for acknowledgements.
2. Called for peace and fellowship.
3. Invitation to visiting brethren.
4. Invitation for membership.
5. Call for correspondence.
6. Reading of last minute.
7. Is pastor faithful in his duties.
8. Are officers faithful in their duties.
9. General business.

## Clerk's Report

Amount in treasury	\$162.72
Printing of minutes	46.80
Gift to new church	75.00
State Association Funds	16.00
Paid clerk	15.00
Balance on hand	9.92

## 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 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 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 the 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 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 1962

CHURCHES	COUNTY	PASTORS	CLERKS AND THEIR POSTOFFICES	Days of Meeting	Rec'd by Confession	Baptized	Received by Letter	Restored	Deaths	Dismissed by Letter	Excluded	Total Membership	Minute Funds
Ebenezer	Morgan	James Waldrep	Clifton Bates, Rt. 1, Falkville, Ala.	1,2,3,4	6	2	1		1	3	1	120	\$15.00
Union Hill	Morgan	Dennis Reeves	O. L. Long, Rt. 1, Falkville, Ala.	1,2,3,4	3	1					1	157	15.00
Cedar Creek	Morgan	Lewis Perry	Robert M. Austin, 111 Crestline St., Hartselle, Ala.	1,2,3,4	25					5		141	15.00
Unity	Cullman	Harvel Smith	George Mabry, Rt. 3, Falkville, Ala.	1,2,3,4	4			1	1	4	2	107	15.00
Macedonia	Cullman	J. T. Quick	Maey Eady, Rt. 1, Cullman, Ala.	1,3	2				2		4	94	10.00
Friendship	Winston	No Pastor	Ruby Morgan, Rt. 1, Addison, Ala.	2,4	1							17	9.00
Laodacia	Cullman	F. L. Thomas	Loan Covey, Hanceville, Ala.	1,3	1						4	37	10.00
Pleasant Hill	Cullman	F. L. Thomas	Maria Ballard, Rt. 2, Blountsville, Ala.	2,4	18	2						20	10.00