

**MINUTES**  
*Of The*  
**EIGHTY-SECOND**  
**ANNUAL SESSION**  
*Of The*  
**FLINT RIVER FREEWILL**  
**BAPTIST ASSOCIATION**

*Convened With*  
**MACEDONIA CHURCH**  
**CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA**

**September 13, 14, 15, 1963**

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***Officers***

Rev. Dennis Reeves, Moderator ..... Rt. 2, Vinemont, Ala.  
O. L. Long, Clerk ..... Rt. 1, Falkville, Ala.

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The next session of this association will convene with Pleasant Hill, five miles east of Hanceville, Cullman County, Alabama, on Friday before the third Sunday in September of 1964.

# MINUTES

The Eighty-Second Annual Session of the Flint River Freewill Baptist Association convened with Macedonia Church, Cullman County, Alabama, on Friday before the third Sunday in September of 1963 at 11:00 o'clock after a song by the congregation and prayer by Rev. Jimmy Brown. The introductory sermon was preached by Rev. Dennis Reeves. Text Matt. 13th Chapter 19th verse.

## Friday Afternoon

At 1 o'clock after a song by the congregation and prayer by Rev. James Waldrep, the house was called to order by the Moderator Rev. F. L. Thomas.

First: Ministers and Deacons seated.

Second: Mary Eady reading clerk.

Third: Visiting Brethren invited to seats with us.

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

Fifth: Petitionary letter called and none received.

Sixth: The Moderator appointed the following committees.

Holice Hall, Dewey Holmes, Lilly Pruitt.

On Character of Ministers, L. L. Lindsey, H. L. Davenport and L. C. Headrick.

On Temperance: Rev. J. T. Quick, Rev. James Waldrep, and Rev. Charles Lindsey.

On Resolutions: J. D. Robertson, Herman Hale, John Smith.

On Finance: Roy Hale, Rea Puttman, Jim Maddux.

On Obituary: Royce Bennett, George Mabry, Kennith Morgan.

On Devotion: Gilbert Boens, Dora Ratliff, L. L. Lindsey.

Seventh: The moderator declared the association fully organized of his trust notifying the association that the office of the moderator and clerk were vacant. The association proceeded to elect the moderator and clerk whereupon Rev. Dennis Reeves 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 L. L. Lindsey.

## Second Day

On Saturday morning at 9:00 o'clock the association reassembled after a 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,

Holice Hall, 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 also appoint for Presbytery Rev. F. L. Thomas, Rev. James Waldrep and Rev. Charles Lindsey.

Respectfully submitted,  
L. L. Lindsey, Chairman

Report adopted: Retain committee.

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 doctrine that opposes the constitution and articles of faith.

Tenth: Resolved that we advise the various churches in our association to remember 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: R. P. Rich.

## Saturday Afternoon

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

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,  
J. T. Quick, 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 Freewill Baptists.

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 \$106.00 and found in treasury \$9.92 total \$115.92.

Roy Hale, Chairman

Report adopted: Committee discharged.

Eleventh: Call for report of committee on obituary.

We, your committee find that 8 members have passed away since last association. They are as follows.

From Union Hill: D. D. Lindsey.

From Macedonia: Sister Eva Alexander, Mrs. Bell Hayes.

From Ebenezer: J. N. Lindsey, Bethel Hall, H. M. Bell, Emma Brown.

From Pleasant Hill: Joe D. Hudson.

We recommend the following brethren to speak in their memory: For D. D. Lindsey, Rev. Dennis Reeves; J. N. Lindsey, Rev. Harvel Smith; Bethel Hall, Rev. Dennis Reeves; H. M. Bell, Rev. James Waldrep; Emma Brown, Rev. Charles Lindsey; Eva Alexander, Rev. J. T. Quick; Mrs. Bell Hayes, Homer Davenport; Joe D. Hudson, Rev. F. L. Thomas.

Royce Bennett, Chairman

Report adopted: Committee discharged.

Twelfth: Resolved that we allow the clerk of this association \$25.00 for his service.

Thirteenth: Resolved that the deacons and clerks of each church have a voice in the association as the delegates and ministers.

Fourteenth: Resolved that the committee on character of ministers shall be ordained deacons.

Fifteenth: Resolved that the moderator shall not appoint anyone on a committee who is not present at that time.

Sixteenth: 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.

Seventeenth: 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 for some disorderly conduct until they make acknowledgement to the church they were excluded from.

Resolution 2. Resolved that any minister regardless of what faith he might be, that presents himself to the association must be examined by the presbytery.

Resolution 3. 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 4. We resolve that our churches don't have any officers of church on Sunday school except a member in good standing.

Resolution 5. Resolved that we adopt the church covenant in the treaties instead of the present one.

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



Delegates to the State Association are as follows:  
 Coleman Holmes, Joyce Holmes, Lilly Pruitt, Robert Drinkard, Kenneth Morgan, Florine Waldrep.

We send as minute funds \$16.00.

J. D. Robertson, Chairman

Report adopted: Committee discharged.

Eighteenth: Resolved that the next session of this association be held with Pleasant Hill Church, 5 miles East of Hanceville, Cullman County, Alabama, on Friday before the third Sunday in Sept. 1964 and the Rev. James Waldrep preach the introductory sermon. Alternate: Rev. Jimmy Brown.

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

Rev. Dennis Reeves, Moderator

O. L. Long, Clerk

Benediction Rev. F. L. Thomas.

#### FRIDAY NIGHT

Devotion..... Royce Bennett  
 Sermon..... Rev. F. L. Thomas

#### SATURDAY MORNING

Sermon..... Rev. Jimmy Brown

#### SATURDAY NIGHT

Devotion..... Aaron Hall  
 Sermon..... Rev. Harvel Smith

#### SUNDAY MORNING

Devotion..... Odean Yates  
 Sermon..... Rev. James Waldrep

Respectfully submitted,  
 Gilbert Boens, Chairman

### Ordained Deacons

EBENEZER — L. C. Brown, D. B. Holmes, Jessi Miller, C. C. Brown (inactive), W. M. Bell (inactive).

UNION HILL — L. E. Reeves, L. L. Lindsey, J. D. Robertson, J. H. Maddux, H. A. Reeves, Holice Hall, Royce Bennett.

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

UNITY — Roy Hale.

MACEDONIA — R. F. Speegle, Emit Hines, Homer Davenport, Venton Eady, Edward McGraw.

LAODICIA — Lee Headrick.

PLEASANT HILL — Clovis Starns, Charles Starns.

FRIENDSHIP — Max Morgan, John Smith.

### 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. 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. Charles Lindsey..... Rt. 1, Falkville, Ala.  
 Rev. James Waldrep..... Rt. 3, Falkville, Ala.  
 Rev. Jimmy Brown..... Rt. 3, Hartselle, Ala.  
 Rev. C. A. Martin..... Cullman, Ala.  
 Rev. Wayne Nails..... Rt. 2, Vinemont, Ala.

### Licensed Ministers

Aaron Hall — Billy Bowers — ~~Wayne Nails~~

### Delegates

EBENEZER — Herman Hale, Debra Hale, Joan Brown.

UNION HILL — Kenneth Morgan, Sam Hunter, Winford Hale.

CEDAR CREEK — Ed Henry, Lilly Pruitt, Joyce Holmes.

UNITY — Barbara Haney, Kenneth Yates, Margaret, Yates.

MACEDONIA — Donna Thiffigan, Albert Marion, Thelma Milligan.

FRIENDSHIP — Bertha Morgan, Georgia Smith, Ruby Morgan.

LAODICIA — Grady Alexander, Gilbert Boens, Joan Day.

PLEASANT HILL — Zebiedee Coker, Era Puttman, Cliff Shockley.

### 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.....	\$115.92
Printing of minutes.....	47.25
State Association Funds.....	16.00
Paid Clerk.....	25.00
<i>BALANCE</i> .....	<i>27.67</i>

### Church Covenant

Having given ourselves to God, by faith in Christ, and adopted 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 promise, by His grace, to love and obey Him in all things, to avoid all appearance of evil, to abstain from all sinful amusements and unholy conformity to the world, from all sanction of the use and sale of intoxicating beverages, and to "provide things honest in the sight of all men."

We agree faithfully to discharge our obligations in reference to the study of the Scriptures, secret prayer, family devotions, and social worship; and by self-denial, faith, and good works endeavor to "grow in grace and the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ."

We will not forsake the assembling of ourselves together for church conferences, public worship, and the observance of the ordinances of the Gospel; nor fail to pay according to our ability for the support of the church, of its poor, and all its benevolent work.



We agree to accept Christian admonition and reproof with meekness, and to watch over one another in love, endeavoring to "keep the unity of the Spirit" in the bonds of peace. To be careful of one another's happiness and reputation, and seek to strengthen the weak, encourage the afflicted, admonish the erring, and as far as we are able, promote the success of the church and of the Gospel.

We will everywhere hold Christian principle sacred and Christian obligations and enterprises supreme; counting it our chief business in life to extend the influence of Christ in society, constantly praying and toiling that the Kingdom of God may come, and His will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

To this end we agree to labor for the promotion of educational and denominational enterprises, the support of missions, the success of Sunday school, and evangelistic efforts for the salvation of the world. And may the God of peace sanctify us wholly, and preserve us blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

## 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, which 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 Church 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 is 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.



NAME OF CHURCH		UNITY	UNION HILL	PLEASANT HILL	MACEDONIA	LAODECIA	FRIENDSHIP	EBENEZER	CEDAR CREEK
No. of Active Members	101	106	158	34	70	35	19	124	
No. of Inactive Members	44					17			
Rec'd by Experience (1st decision)	5	4	3	12	2		2		
Received by Letter	14	2	2		4				
Rec'd by Confession or Statement									
Dismissed by Letter	17	3	5		7				
Deceased						2		4	
Amount of Cont. to Assn.	17.00	15.00	15.00	12.00	10.00	12.00	10.00	12.00	
Number of Deacons	5	1	7	3	5	1	2	5	
Number of Ordained Ministers	2	4	1		2			3	
Number of Licensed Ministers	1		1						
No. of Sunday School Classes	8	4	4		4			6	
No. on Roll in Sunday School	90		81				24		
No. on Roll in League	74								
No. of Leagues in The LEAGUE	6								
No. on Roll in Woman's Auxiliary	22								
No. on Roll, Young People's Aux.	18								
No. on Roll in Go Tell Aux.	16								
Offering to HOME Missions	140.39								
Offering to FOREIGN Missions	347.64							124.00	
Offering to Christian Education	185.37								
Offering to Superannuation	8.00								
Offering to Children's Home, Eldridge	32.75		72.20					75.00	
Offering to Charity	31.45								
Amount Paid Pastor	3,060.00	168.89	700.69					313.14	
Amount Paid Evangelists	190.00		50.00					52.50	
Amount Paid Visiting Preachers	25.00		9.45						
Offering to Other Causes and Expenses	516.10								
Value of Church Property	14,000.00					5,500.00			
Value of Parsonage	12,000.00								
Total Amt. Received in Church	4,963.35								
Total Amount Paid Out	4,864.47								

Statistical Table For 1963

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	Charles Lindsey	Clifton Bates, Rt. 1, Falkville, Ala.	2,4	2,4	1	3	2	4	5		124	\$15.00
Union Hill	Morgan	Harvel Smith	O. L. Long, Rt. 1, Falkville	1,2,3,4	1,2,3,4	1	3	2				158	15.00
Cedar Creek	Morgan	Jimmie Brown	Robert Austin, Hartselle	1,2,3,4	1,2,3,4	14	5				17	145	17.00
Unity	Cullman	Dennis Reeves	George Mabry, Rt. 3, Falkville	1,2,3,4	1,2,3,4	4	4	2		3	4	106	15.00
Macedonia	Cullman	Charles Lindsey	Mary Eady, Rt. 1, Cullman	1,3	1,3	2	6	4	1	7	2	70	10.00
Friendship	Winston	No Pastor	Ruby Morgan, Rt. 1, Addison	2,4	2,4	2	2					19	10.00
Laodecia	Cullman	James Waldrep	Lee Headrick, Hanceville	1,2,3,4	1,2,3,4	2			2			35	12.00
Pleasant Hill	Cullman	F. L. Thomas	Marie Ballard, Rt. 2, Blountsville	1,2,3,4	1,2,3,4	2	12					34	12.00