

MINUTES
Of The
EIGHTY-FOURTH
ANNUAL SESSION

Of The
FLINT RIVER FREEWILL
BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

Convened With
FRIENDSHIP CHURCH
WINSTON COUNTY, ALABAMA

September 17, 18, 19, 1965

OFFICERS

Rev. F. L. Thomas, Moderator Rt. 1, Cullman, Ala.
Samuel H. Hunter, Clerk Rt. 1, Falkville, Ala.

The next session of ase association will convene with Laodicea about 13 miles south of Cullman in Cullman County, Alabama, near Hanceville, Alabama, on Friday before the third Sunday in September of 1966.

MINUTES

The eighty-fourth annual session of the Flint River Freewill Baptist Association convened with Friendship Church in Winston County, Alabama, on Friday before the third Sunday in September of 1965 at 11:00 o'clock, after a song by the congregation and a prayer by Rev. Archie Lee Harris. The introductory sermon was preached by Rev. Jimmie Brown. Text, 1st chapter of Ephesians, third verse. Benediction by Holice Hall.

Friday Afternoon

At 1:00 o'clock after a song by the congregation, a prayer by Rev. R. P. Ritch, the house was called to order by the moderator Rev. Dennis Reeves.

First: Ministers, Deacons, and Clerks seated.

Second: Inez Jones, appointed reading clerk.

Third: Visiting bretheren invited to seat with us.

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

Fifth: Petitionary letters called for, none received.

Sixth: The Moderator appointed the following committees.

Business Committee: Rev. Archie Lee Harris, Rev. James Waldrep, and Winfred Hale.

On Character of Ministers: L. L. Lindsey, Robert Drinkard, and H. L. Davenport.

On Temperance: Arlon Hale, Kenneth Yates, and J. R. Putman.

Resolution: Paul M. Jones, Max Morgan, and Rev. R. P. Ritch.

On Finance: Florene Waldrep, Mary Ritch, and Dora Ratliff.

On Obituary: Ruby Morgan, Dewey Holmes, and Sammy Hunter.

On Devotion: Preston Yeager, John Smith, and J. D. Robertson.

The Moderator declared the association fully organized of his trust notifying the association the office of moderator and clerk were vacant. The association proceeded to elect a moderator and clerk, whereupon Rev. F. L. Thomas was elected moderator and Rev. Dennis Reeves was elected assistant moderator. Samuel Hunter was elected clerk, Robert Drinkard elected assistant clerk. After appropriate remarks by both, the association adjourned until 9:00 o'clock Saturday morning. Benediction by Rev. Archie Lee Harris.

Second Day

On Saturday morning at 9:00 O'clock the association reassembled after a song by the congregation and a prayer by Jimmie Wayne Brown. The association was called to order by the moderator.

First: Roll call. Ministers, Deacons, Clerks, and Delegates seated.

Second: Visiting brethren invited to seat with us.

Third: Called for report of committees 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,
Rev. A. L. Harris, Chairman

Report adopted. Committee discharged.

Fourth: We your committee on character of ministers beg leave to report as follows: We find 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. Retained committee.

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 organized church.

Seventh: Resolved that we have a standing committee for the purpose of investigation 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 and compensate their pastor.

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 Rev. Julian Parsons.

Saturday Afternoon

At 1:00 o'clock the association met pursuant to adjournment after a song by the congregation and a prayer by Rev. Dennis Reeves. 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: 1. Corinthians, "and every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things." We recommend that we commit ourselves to temperance 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,
Arlon Hale, 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 or license ministers who cannot 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 to investigate 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 or eligible for ordination.

Tenth: Call for report of committee on Finance.

We your finance committee have collected \$118.00 and found in treasury \$29.74, making a total of \$147.74 in treasury.

Respectfully submitted,
Florene Waldrep, Chairman

Report adopted. Committee discharged.

Eleventh: Call for report of committee on obituary. We, your committee find that twelve members have passed away since last association. They are as follows: From Ebenezer; Floria Presley, Francis Brown; From Union Hill; Sammie Fortenberry, Jessie Reeves, Mary Long, Nancy Homes, Velma Reeves; From Unity; J. H. Holmes, Montana Foster, Evie Pike; from Laodicea Gene Quick; From Maple Grove; Bro. Barnwell.

We recommend the following to speak in their memory: For Floria Presley, Rev. Charles Lindsey; For Francis Brown, Rev. Dennis Reeves; For Sammie Fortenberry, Rev. F. L. Thomas; For Jessie Reeves, Holice Hall; For Mary Long, Rev. F. L. Thomas; For Nancy Holmes, Rev. James Waldrep; For Velma Reeves, Rev. Aaron Hall; For J. H. Holmes, Kenneth Yates; For Montana Foster, Rev. Dennis Reeves; For Evie Pike, Rev. Dennis Reeves; For Gene Quick, Rev. Roy Patterson; For Bro. Barnswell, Rev. R. P. Ritch.

Respectfully submitted,
Ruby Morgan, Chairman

Report adopted: Committee discharged.

Twelfth: Resolved that we allow the clerk of the association \$35.00.

Thirteenth: Resolved that the moderator shall not appoint any one on a committee who is not present at that time.

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

Fifteenth: Call for report on 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: We recommend the moderator and assistant moderator, clerk and assistant clerk of this association be appointed in the latter part of the Saturday afternoon session of the association and retain and serve their office through the Saturday afternoon of the following year at which time a new election will be held to serve from then through the next following year in the same order.

Resolution 3: We recommend that all ministers of this association shall attend all business meetings unless providentially hindered.

Resolution 4: We recommend that all ministers wishing to become members of the Flint River Association must be recommended from the church from which they are members and will be called upon to present their credentials for examination and answer satisfactorily such questions as may be asked of them by the presbytery.

Resolution 5: We recommend that at least one delegate from each church present serve on at least one committee.

Paul Jones, Chairman

Resolution 6: Resolved that the next session of the association be held with Laodicea, about 13 miles south of Cullman, near Hanceville, in Cullman County, Ala., on Friday before the third Sunday in September, 1966.

Resolution 7: Resolved that we extend our thanks to Friendship Church and surrounding community for their hospitality shown us. May God's richest blessings be theirs.

Rev. F. L. Thomas, Moderator

Samuel Hunter, Clerk

Benediction by: J. D. Robertson.

FRIDAY NIGHT

Devotion L. L. Lindsey
Sermon Rev. James Waldrep

SATURDAY MORNING

Devotion H. L. Davenport
Sermon Rev. R. P. Ritch

SATURDAY NIGHT

Devotion Rev. A. L. Harris
Sermon Rev. Otis Long

SUNDAY MORNING

Devotion Holice Hall
Sermon Rev. F. L. Thomas

Ordained Deacons

EBENEZER—J. W. Brown, Dewey Holmes, Clifton Bates, Jessie Miller, Robert Drinkard.

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

CEDAR CREEK—Albert L. Henry, Willie B. Foot, Thomas (Bud) Hill, Paul M. Jones, Luther F. Holmes.

UNITY—Roy Hale.

MACEDONIA—R. F. Speegle, Winton Eady, H. L. Davenport.

LAODICEA—Lee Headrick.

PLEASANT HILL—Clovis Starnes.

FRIENDSHIP—Max Morgan, John Smith.

MAPLE GROVE—V. G. Lowery, Walter Lowery.

Ordained Ministers

Rev. Dennis Reeves	Rt. 2, Vinemont, Ala.
Rev. F. L. Thomas	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. 7, Cullman, Ala.
Rev. Jimmy Brown	Rt. 3, Hartselle, Ala.
Rev. Wayne Nails	Rt. 2, Vinemont, Ala.
Rev. Aaron Hall	Rt. 3, Falkville, Ala.
Rev. Billy Bowers	Rt. 3, Hartselle, Ala.
Rev. R. P. Ritch	P. O. Box 113, Madison, Ala.
Rev. Julian L. Parsons	1303, 6th Ave., S.E., Decatur, Ala.
Rev. Jimmy Wayne Brown	Rt. 3, Hartselle, Ala.
Rev. Archie Lee Harris	Rt. 1, Falkville, Ala.

Licensed Ministers

Wiley Waldrep
Herman Freeman

Visiting Ministers

Rev. Otis Long
Rev. W. O. Marlow

Delegates

EBENEZER—Bill Smith, Arlon Hale, Morris Brown.
UNION HILL—Winfred Hale, J. D. Robertson, Sammy Hunter.
CEDAR CREEK—Inez Jones, Ethel Henry, Robert M. Austin.
UNITY—Preston Yeager, Kenneth Yates, Avery Eargle.
MACEDONIA—Thelma Milligan, Clrlen Milligan, Kenneth Milligan.
FRIENDSHIP—Ricky Morgan, Ruby Morgan, Jimmy Nell Salters.
LAODICEA—Florene Waldrep, Elsie Freeman.

PLEASANT HILL—Rufus Putman, Dora Ratliff, Luvenia Johns.
MAPLE GROVE—Letha Alexander, Mary Ritch, Mable Lowery.

Called for Conference

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

Clerk's Report

Amount in treasury	\$147.75
Paid Clerk	35.00
Printing of Minutes	63.60
Postage	2.00
Balance	\$ 47.15

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 Savior 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 for 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 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.

15. Be it known that we, the Freewill Baptist 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 are mutually independent of each other that congregational form of church government should be invariably preserved. Yet we being convinced of unity 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.

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

17. Resolved that the committee on character of minister shall be ordained deacons.

Constitution And Articles Of Faith

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 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 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 judgement, 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							
	PLEASANT HILL	LAODICEA	FRIENDSHIP	MACEDONIA	UNITY	CEDAR CREEK	UNION HILL	EBENEZER
No. of Active Members	44	30	28	83	128	113	172	60
No. of Inactive Members		20				46		55
Rec'd by Experience (First Decision)								
Received by Letter	1	3			5		3	
Rec'd by Confession or Statement					8	8	2	3
Dismissed by Letter				4	3	3	2	3
Deceased	1	1			3		5	2
Number of Deacons		1	2		1	5	6	5
No. of Ordained Ministers	1	1			2	2	3	2
No. of Licensed Ministers		1				1		1
No. of Sunday School Classes		4		5		9	5	
No. on Roll in Sunday School		26				116		60
No. on Roll in League						79		
No. of Leagues in the League								
No. on Roll in Woman's Auxiliary								
No. on Roll in Young People's Auxiliary								
No. on Roll in Go Tell Auxiliary								
Offering to Home Missions						\$225.63		
Offering to Foreign Missions						241.23		
Offering to Christian Education						178.50		
Offering to Superannuation						50.00		
Offering to Children's Home, Eldridge						42.00	\$34.63	
Offering to Charity								
Amount Paid Pastor	\$401.23	\$353.20			\$3,120.00		1,074.75	
Amount Paid Evangelist	\$60.00	70.80						
Amt. Paid Visiting Preachers								
Offering to Other Causes						35.00		
Value of Church Property	5,000.00				17,000.00			
Value of Parsonage					13,000.00			
Total Amt. Rec'd in Church	689.39				5,500.81			
Total Amount Paid Out	623.59				5,582.79			

Statistical Table For 1965

CHURCHES	COUNTY	PASTORS	CLERKS AND THEIR POSTOFFICES	Minute Funds
Ebenezer.....	Morgan.....	James Waldrop.....	Clifton Bates, Rt. 3, Falkville.....	115 \$15.00
Union Hill.....	Morgan.....	Archie Lee Harris.....	Samuel H. Hunter, Rt. 1, Falkville.....	0 172 20.00
Cedar Creek.....	Morgan.....	Jimmie Brown.....	Robert Lee Brewer, Rt. 3, Box 36 H'selle	1,2,3,4 0 159 15.00
Unity.....	Cullman.....	Dennis Reeves.....	George Mabry, Rt. 3, Falkville.....	1,2,3,4 3 128 15.00
Macedonia.....	Cullman.....	Roy Patterson.....	Mary Eady Rt. 1, Cullman.....	1,2,3,4 4 1 84 10.00
Friendship.....	Winston.....		Ruby Racer, Rt. 1, Addison.....	2 & 4 28 10.00
Laodicea.....	Cullman.....		Annie Shugart, Rt. 2, Hanceville.....	3 1 50 10.00
Pleasant Hill.....	Blount.....	F. L. Thomas.....	Bennie Moore, 1629C 26 St. N. B'ham...	1,2,3,4 1 44 15.00

Total Members

Excluded

Dismissed by Letter

Deaths

RestoredReceived by LetterBaptized

Rec'd by Confession

Days of MeetingCLERKS AND THEIR
POSTOFFICES

PASTORS

COUNTY

CHURCHES

Ebenezer.....	Morgan.....	James Waldrop.....	Clifton Bates, Rt. 3, Falkville.....	1,2,3,4,18	13	2	3	115	\$15.00			
Union Hill.....	Morgan.....	Archie Lee Harris.....	Samuel H. Hunter, Rt. 1, Falkville.....	1,2,3,4	0	2	3	0	172	20.00		
Cedar Creek.....	Morgan.....	Jimmie Brown.....	Robert Lee Brewer, Rt. 3, Box 36 H'selle.....	1,2,3,4	0	8	3	5	3	0	159	15.00
Unity.....	Cullman.....	Dennis Reeves.....	George Mabry, Rt. 3, Falkville.....	1,2,3,4	8	6	5	3	3	128	15.00	
Macedonia.....	Cullman.....	Roy Patterson.....	Mary Eady Rt. 1, Cullman.....	1,2,3,4			4	1	84	10.00		
Friendship.....	Winston.....		Ruby Racer, Rt. 1, Addison.....	2 & 4					28	10.00		
Laodicea.....	Cullman.....		Annie Shugart, Rt. 2, Hanceville.....	1,2,3,4	3	1			50	10.00		
Pleasant Hill.....	Blount.....	F. L. Thomas.....	Bennie Moore, 1629C 26 St. N. B'ham.....	1,2,3,4	1				44	15.00		