

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

Convened With
PLEASANT HILL CHURCH
BLOUNT COUNTY, ALABAMA
September 15, 16, 17, 1973

OFFICERS

Rev. Dennis Reeves, Moderator **Rt. 2, Vinemont, Ala.**
Bro. Thomas Hale, Clerk **Rt. 3, Falkville, Ala.**

The next session of this Association will convene with Macedonia Church in Cullman County, Alabama on Friday before the third Sunday in September, 1974.

MINUTES

Friday Morning

The ninety-second annual session of the Flint River Freewill Baptist Association convened with Pleasant Hill in Blount County, Alabama, on Friday before the third Sunday in September of 1973 at 11:00 o'clock, after a song by the congregation and an altar prayer by the Body. The introductory sermon was preached by Rev James Waldrep. TEXT: Matt: 21:1-3. Benediction by Rev. Wayne Nails.

Friday Afternoon

At 1:00 o'clock after a song by the congregation and a prayer by Bro. Billy Vest, the house was called to order by the moderator, Rev. Dennis Reeves.

First: Ordained and licensed ministers, deacons, and clerks seated.

Second: Sis. Patsy Hale appointed reading clerk.

Third: Visiting brethren invited to seat with us.

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

Fifth: Petitionary letters called for, none received.

Sixth: The moderator appointed the following committees and explained their duties:

On Devotion: Bro. Robert Knott, Bro. Roger Buckelew, Bro. Nolan Goodwin.

On Business Committee: Rev. Wayne Nails, Rev. Laverle Buckelew, Rev. James Waldrep.

On Character of Ministers: Bro. Herbert Couch, Bro. V. D. Holoway, Bro. John Robertson.

On Resolutions: Bro. Leonard Taylor, Bro. H. L. Davenport, Bro. Sammy Nelson.

On Finance: Sis Myrtle Putman, Sis. Jane Long, Sis. Charlotte Holmes.

On Obituary: Bro. Donnie Long, Bro. Benny Moore, Bro. Oscar Long.

The Moderator declared the association fully organized of his trust, notifying the association of the offices of moderator and clerk were vacant. The association proceeded to elect a moderator and clerk, whereupon Rev. Dennis Reeves was elected moderator and Rev. James Waldrep was elected assistant moderator. Bro. Thomas Hale was elected clerk and Bro. Bennie Moore elected assistant clerk. After appropriate remarks by both, the association adjourned until 9:00 o'clock Saturday morning. Benediction by Bro. Herbert Couch.

*Union Hill pulled out of the association
Sept. 14-1974*

Second Day

On Saturday morning at 9:00 o'clock the association reassembled after a song by the congregation and a prayer by Rev. Wayne Vest. 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 committee on order of business. We your committee on order of business beg leave to report as follows:

1. Read the Constitution, rules of decorum, and Church Covenant with time being given for any delegate to discuss any part that he or she might not understand or agree with. The union then being perpetuated by a song and handshake.

2. That we adopt our resolutions that are in our minutes with time following for any delegate to discuss any resolution that he or she might not understand or find unsatisfactory.

3. The committee reports and the rest of the time be called for and used according to the planning of the moderator and devotion committee.

4. The resolutions concerning the host church, next years meeting place and the introductory sermon be taken care of at the proper time.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Wayne Nails, Chairman

Report adopted. Committee discharged.

Fourth: Call for report of committee on character of ministers.

We your committee on character of ministers beg leave to report as follows: We find our ministers in good standing. We also appoint as Presbytery Rev. James Waldrep, Rev. Dennis Reeves and Rev. Wayne Nails.

Respectfully submitted,
Bro. Preston Yeager, Chairman

Report adopted. Committee discharged.

Fifth: Constitution, Rules of Decorum, and the Church Covenant were read. The union was perpetuated by a song and handshake. OK

Sixth: The body voted to accept the following resolutions after time was given for discussion.

1. Resolved that our ordained men shall not baptize people who do not believe in an organized church.

2. Resolved that we have a standing committee for the purpose of investigation of the character of our ministers and they shall have the power to appoint a presbytery for the purpose of ordaining ministers, and if desired by the Church, the deacons in our Association.

Bro. James Waldrep

3. Resolved that our ministers go preach the Gospel and organize churches and call for aid as they see fit.

4. Resolved that we do not allow ministers to preach in our churches doctrine that opposes the constitution and articles of faith.

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

6. Resolved that a church in the Flint River Association shall not receive members from a sister church without a letter of recommendation. *Stay as is*

7. Resolved that an applicant for ordination must preach before the presbytery before his ordination can be performed.

8. Resolved that ministers of the Flint River Association shall not be allowed to organize churches where they cannot be permanently established. *Strike it out*

9. Resolved that the deacons where a minister has his membership be requested to assist the standing committee to investigate any rumor that may come against him.

10. Resolved that a church shall not call for a pastor, a minister who has not been ordained or eligible for ordination.

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

12. Resolved that we give our ordained and licensed 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.

13. Resolved that we do not ordain ministers or deacons who have more than one living wife or accept work from other bodies that have done so.

14. Resolved that we have a fellowship meeting on Friday and Saturday night before each Fifth Sunday.

15. Resolved 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.

16. We recommend that at least one delegate from each church present serve on at least one committee.

17. Resolved that the body elect a minister to preach the introductory sermon for the next setting of the association.

18. Resolved that the moderator explain the duties of the various committees as he appoints them.

The association adjourned at 11:00 o'clock for devotion and preaching. Devotion, Rev. Kenneth Reeves, and preaching, Rev. Enoch Graves.

Saturday Afternoon

At 1:00 o'clock the association met pursuant to adjournment after a song by the congregation and a prayer by Rev. Thomas Meade. 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: Call for report of committee on finance.

We your finance committee have collected \$158.00 and found in treasury \$28.10 making a total of \$186.10 in treasury.

Respectfully submitted,
Sis. Myrtle Putman, Chairman

Report adopted. Committee discharged.

Fourth: Called for report of committee on obituary. We your obituary committee find that seven members have passed away since last association. They are: From Ebenezer: Bro. Ed Brown and Bro. Elbert Brown. From Union Hill: Bro. Cecil Reeves and Bro. Jessie Pepper. From Pleasant Hill: Bro. Bill Culwell and Sis. Ruth Couch. From Macedonia: Bro. Clayton Milligan. To speak in behalf of Bro. Ed Brown—Rev. Wayne Nails, Bro. Elbert Brown—Rev. Laverle Buckelew, Bro. Cecil Reeves—Rev. Kenneth Reeves, Bro. Jessie Pepper—Rev. Wayne Nails, Bro. Bill Culwell and Sis. Ruth Couch—Rev. James Waldrep, and for Bro. Clayton Milligan—Rev. Kenneth Reeves.

Respectfully submitted,
Bro. Donnie Long, Chairman

Report adopted. Committee discharged.

Fifth: Called for report of resolutions committee. We beg leave to report as follows: No new resolutions approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Bro. Leonard Taylor, Chairman

Report adopted. Committee discharged.

Our visiting Brethren were: Rev. George Michol.

INTRODUCTORY SERMON

Rev. Roger Hunter was elected by the body to deliver the introductory sermon at the 1974 session of the association.

Resolved the next session of this Association be held with Macedonia in Cullman County, Alabama, on Friday before the third Sunday in September 1974.

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

Resolutions adopted following motions from the floor.

Rev. Dennis Reeves, Moderator
Bro. Thomas Hale, Clerk

FRIDAY NIGHT

Devotion Rev. Roger Ammons
Sermon Rev. Roger Ammons

SATURDAY MORNING

Devotion Rev. Kenneth Reeves
Sermon Rev. Enoch Graves

SATURDAY NIGHT

Devotion Rev. Truman Starnes
Sermon Rev. Wayne Nails

SUNDAY AFTERNOON

Communion and footwashing service conducted.

Ordained Ministers

Rev. Kenneth Morgan Nashville, Tenn.
Rev. Roger Hood Nashville, Tenn.
Rev. Enoch Graves Vinemont, Ala.
Rev. Dennis Reeves Vinemont, Ala.
Rev. James Waldrep Hanceville, Ala.
Rev. Aaron Hall Decatur, Ala.
Rev. Laverle Buckelew Falkville, Ala.
Rev. Wayne Nails Vinemont, Ala.
Rev. Clifton Bates Falkville, Ala.
Rev. Truman Starnes Hanceville, Ala.
Rev. Benton W. Rogers Blountsville, Ala.
Rev. Kenneth Reeves Vinemont, Ala.
Rev. Kenneth Terry Blountsville, Ala.
Rev. John Harden

Licensed Ministers

Rev. Thomas Meade Blountsville, Ala.
Rev. Roger Hunter Falkville, Ala.
Rev. Robert Morgan Nashville, Tenn.
Rev. Wayne Vest Falkville, Ala.
Rev. Joe Burrow Vinemont, Ala.
Rev. Roger Ammons Hartselle, Ala.
Rev. Leonard Taylor Vinemont, Ala.
Rev. Melvin Hunter Hartselle, Ala.

Tri-Deacons

Bro. Eugene Nobinger Vinemont, Ala.
Bro. Donnie Long
Bro. Thomas Hale Falkville, Ala.
Bro. Benny Lindsey Cullman, Ala.
Bro. Eroy Key

Ordained Deacons

Bro. Venton Eady	Cullman, Ala.
Bro. H. L. Davenport	Cullman, Ala.
Bro. J. W. Brown	Falkville, Ala.
X Bro. Dewey Holmes	Falkville, Ala.
X Bro. Jessie Miller	Falkville, Ala.
Bro. Lum Duke	Falkville, Ala.
Bro. Robert Drinkard	Eva, Ala.
Bro. Gary Miller	Falkville, Ala.
Bro. Billy Vest	Falkville, Ala.
Bro. L. L. Lindsey	Falkville, Ala.
X Bro. Samuel Hunter	Falkville, Ala.
Bro. Lonzo Davis	Falkville, Ala.
X Bro. V. D. Holoway	Falkville, Ala.
X Bro. Harold McCormick	Hartselle, Ala.
Bro. Roy Hale	Vinemont, Ala.
Bro. Preston Yeager	Cullman, Ala.
Bro. J. D. Robertson	Vinemont, Ala.
Bro. H. A. Reeves	Vinemont, Ala.
Bro. Herbert Couch	
Bro. Clovis Starnes	
Bro. Joe Terry	
Bro. Bill Ganus	

Delegates

EBENEZER — Bro. Oscar Long, Bro. Sammy Nelson, and Bro. Roger Buckelew.
 UNION HILL — Sis. Jane Long, Sis. Gail McCormick, and Sis. Charlotte Holmes.
 UNITY — Sis. Margie Yates, Bro. Robert Knott, and Bro. Kenneth Yates.
 PLEASANT HILL — Sis. Ruby Coutour, Sis. Myrtle Putman, and Sis. Fay Moore.
 MACEDONIA — Sis. Lela Hines, Sis. Mary Goodwin, and Bro. Nolan Goodwin.

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	\$186.10
Paid Clerk	35.00
Printing of Minutes	95.40
Balance	55.70

Church Covenant

Having given ourselves to God¹, by faith in Christ², and adopted the Word of God as our rule of faith and practice³, we now give ourselves to one another by the will of God in this solemn covenant⁴.

We promise, by His grace, to love and obey Him in all things⁵, to avoid all appearance of evil⁶, to abstain from all sinful amusements and unholy conformity to the world⁷, from all sanction of the use and sale of intoxicating beverages⁸, and to "provide things honest in the sight of all men⁹."

We agree faithfully to discharge our obligations in reference to the study of the Scriptures¹⁰, secret prayer¹¹, family devotions¹², and social worship¹³; and by self-denial, faith, and good works endeavor to "grow in grace and the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ¹⁴."

We will not forsake the assembling of ourselves together for church conferences, public worship, and the observance of the ordinances of the Gospel¹⁵; nor fail to pay according to our ability for the support of the church, of its poor, and all its benevolent work¹⁶.

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 Gospel¹⁷.

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 society¹⁸, constantly praying and toiling that the Kingdom of God may come, and His will be done on earth as it is in Heaven¹⁹.

To this end we agree to labor for the promotion of educational and denominational enterprises²⁰, the support of missions²¹, the success of Sunday School²², and evangelistic efforts for the salvation of the world²³. And may the God of peace sanctify us wholly, and preserve us blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ²⁴.

BIBLE REFERENCES FOR THE CHURCH COVENANT

1. Matt. 22:37	Proverbs 23:29-35	15. Heb. 10:25
2. John 14:1	Hab. 2:15	16. 1 Cor. 16:2
3. 2 Tim. 3:15-17	John 1:9	17. Matt. 18:15-17
4. Matt. 22:39	James 5:16	18. Matt. 6:33
5. Phil. 4:13	Matt. 5:37	19. Matt. 6:10
6. Matt. 6:13	John 5:39	20. 2 Tim. 2:15
7. 1 John 2:15	Matt. 6:6	21. 1 Cor. 16:2
Romans 12:2	Acts 10:2	22. Luke 4:16
8. Eph. 5:18	Heb. 10:25	23. Matt. 28:19
Romans 13:13	2 Peter 3:18	24. Jude 1:24-25
Proverbs 20:1		

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 a 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 a two-thirds majority.

9. No member shall absent himself from the house during the business session of the Association without leave from the moderator; and no member shall take final leave during the business session 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 of 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 ministers 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 which we 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 judgement, and the joys of the righteous and the punishment of the wicked shall be eternal.

Article 10. We believe that none but ordained men 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.

Article 13. I Corinthians, "and every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things." We recommend that we commit ourselves to temperance by: (1) Normal consumption of food, (2) By modest dress, (3) By total abstinence from all alcoholic beverages, (4) By using habit forming drugs only when necessary, (5) By practicing proper health habits.

Financial Report

EBENEZER:

Minute Funds \$35.00

UNION HILL:

Minute Funds \$30.00

UNITY:

Minute Funds \$50.00

PLEASANT HILL:

Minute Funds \$30.00

MACEDONIA:

Minute Funds \$13.00

CHURCH STATISTICS 1973

	PLEASANT HILL	UNITY	UNION HILL	EBENEZER	MACEDONIA
Active Members	45	228	148	100	12
Inactive Members	70	25	0	50	0
Total Members	115	253	148	153	12
Received by Baptism	7	2	4	5	0
Received by Letters	0	1	9	0	2
Received by Confession or Statement	1	3	0	2	2
Dismissed by Letter	0	4	5	2	1
Dismissed	0	1	0	0	0
Deceased	2	0	2	2	1
Deacons	4	3	4	7	2
Tri-Deacons	1	0	3	0	0
Ordained Ministers	4	4	3	2	1
Licensed Ministers	1	0	6	1	0
Sunday School Classes	6	8	5	5	3

Statistical Table For 1973

CHURCHES	COUNTY	PASTORS	CLERKS AND THEIR POSTOFFICES	MEETING DAYS
Ebenezer	Morgan	Laverle Buckalew	Wanles Kellem, Rt. 1, Falkville	Wed. Evening 2, 4 Sat. Evening 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 Sunday
Union Hill	Morgan	Wayne Nails	Lonzo Davis, Rt. 1, Falkville	1, 2, 3, 4, 5 Sunday Sun. Evening
Unity	Cullman	Enoch Graves	George Mabry, Rt. 3, Falkville	1, 2, 3, 4, 5 Sunday Sun. & Wed. Evening
Pleasant Hill	Blount	James Waldrep	Bennie H. Moore, Rt. 2, Blountsville	1, 2, 3, 4, 5 Sunday Sun. & Wed. Evening
Macedonia	Cullman	Kenneth Reeves	John Bishop, Rt. 6, Cullman	1, 2, 3, 4, 5 Sunday Thurs. Evening