

History Name

MINUTES

—OF THE—

FIRST ANNUAL SESSION

—OF THE—

Florida State Association of Free Will Baptists

HELD WITH

UNION HILL CHURCH

SLOCOMB, ALABAMA

November 2nd and 3rd, 1945

OFFICERS:

D. F. PELT, Moderator.....Altha, Florida
J. M. RICH, Vice Moderator.....Nashville, Tennessee
EARNEST OWENS, Treasurer.....Chipley, Florida
D. W. POOLE, Clerk.....Dothan, Alabama

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Officers of the Association are Executive Committee.

The next session will meet with Prospect Church,
Dothan, Alabama, on November 1st and 2nd, 1946.

PLANNING BOARD

D. F. PELT-----Altha, Florida
ERNEST OWENS-----Chipley, Florida
FLETCHER BOLIN-----Slocomb, Alabama
G. H. JORDAN-----Cottonwood, Alabama
RUFUS HYMAN-----Altha, Florida

BOARD OF SUPERANNUATION

G. W. NOBLES-----Cottonwood, Alabama
A. B. COOK-----Bonifay, Florida
JOHN GOLDEN-----Eufaula, Alabama
C. E. DAY-----Marianna, Florida, R. F. D.
D. O. HOLLY-----Slocomb, Alabama

BOARD OF MISSIONS

J. M. RICH-----Nashville, Tennessee
E. S. JONES-----Cottonwood, Alabama
LONG STOKES-----Abbeville, Alabama
J. W. ROBERTS-----Altha, Florida
HERMAN FARMER-----Noma, Florida

BOARD OF EDUCATION

J. M. RICH-----Nashville, Tennessee
MRS. JOE JOHNSON-----Bascomb, Florida
MRS. FLETCHER BOLIN-----Slocomb, Alabama
JIM NICKELS-----Altha, Florida
J. H. OATES-----Headland, Alabama

PROCEEDINGS

The Florida State Association of Free Will Baptist convened with Union Hill Church, near Slocomb, Alabama, in its first regular Annual Session on Friday and Saturday, November 2nd and 3rd, 1945.

The body was called to order at ten o'clock.

After prayer by the moderator and song worship by the congregation, Bro. C. F. Schroeder conducted devotional service, speaking from the scripture, "Come unto me, all ye that Labor and are Heavy Laden."

Welcome address by Rev. Rufus Hyman.

Response by Bro. Earnest Owens.

NAMES OF CHURCHES AND DELEGATES.

Liberty Association—Bro. and Sister Earnest Owens, Bro. J. L. Coley.

State Line Association—Brothers J. C. Howell and E. S. Jones.

Salem Association—Brothers C. L. Cook and C. E. Day.

Union Hill Association—Brother W. A. Clark.

Friendship Church—Brother J. E. Malory.

Prospect Church—Brother E. T. Ingram.

Damascus Church—Brother W. L. Cloud.

Marvin Chapel Church—Brother E. L. Basford.

MINISTERIAL DELEGATES.

W. A. Clark, J. O. Cook, Rufus Hyman, John M. Rich, D. F. Pelt, D. W. Poole and C. F. Schoeder.

DEACONS.

F. W. Bolin, A. T. Moss, W. R. Kirkland, J. R. Bolin, E. T. Ingram, J. E. Malory, C. L. Cook, Earnest Owens and E. L. Hidle.

By motion delegates were seated in the body.

By motion, committee on committees was appointed by the chair as follows: Earnest Owens, E. T. Ingram, Rufus Hyman.

By motion, minutes of organization of this Association were read and adopted.

By motion, report of committee on Constitution and By-Laws was read by clerk, and after some discussion was tabled until afternoon session.

By motion regular business was adjourned for Bro. J. R. Davidson's message which was ably delivered from the 2nd chapter of Ephesians.

Dismissed for lunch at 12:30 to re-assemble at 1:45.

Re-assemble at 1:45, after song and prayer service with brief devotion by the clerk business was resumed in regular order.

Report of Committee on Constitution re-read and adopted with the following amendment to article one of Section One.

Amendment: That this Assembly shall be known as the "Florida State Association of Free Will Baptist", rather than "The Sectional Association of South Alabama and West Florida."

By motion regular order of business was dispensed with to allow time for Rev. J. R. Davidson to define and explain the Unified Program of the church and report on the work and progress of the Bible College at Nashville, Tennessee, after which a free will offering of \$47.00 was taken for the college.

Adjourned to reassemble at 9:30 Saturday morning.

SATURDAY MORNING SESSION.

After prayer and congregational singing Bro. C. L. Cook brought an inspiring scriptural message and business was resumed in regular order at 10:15.

Report of Planning Committee read, and after discussion adopted with following amendment: "That of the local church funds 15% shall be appropriated for missions and 5% for Superannuation, rather than 20% for missions.

The following delegates arrived today and were seated in the body:
Rev. G. H. Jordon—State Line Association.

Sister Joe Johnson—Hickory Grove Church.

At 11 o'clock Rev. G. H. Jordan gave a timely lecture on education.

Report of Committee on Committees read and adopted.

Regular order of business dispensed with, for Moderator's message and noon hour.

Reassemble at 1:30.

After prayer and praise service regular order of business was resumed.

Motion sustained to assess each association representing in this body five dollars annually for associational fees and two dollars per delegate from individual churches.

By motion election of delegates to National Association be tabled until later in the afternoon.

Report on Education read and adopted with following amendment: "That Section 3 of said report should be tabled until such time as the body deems it expedient to undertake the Publication of a Church paper.

By motion Program Committee was authorized to prepare program immediately for 1946 session so that said report could be printed in these minutes.

By motion Report of Mission Board was omitted.

Report of Finance Committee read and adopted with the amendment to pay all back dues to National Association out of funds now on hand.

Report of nominating committee was read and adopted. Officers elected by Nomination and Acclamation as follows:

Rev. D. F. Pelt—Moderator.

Rev. J. M. Rich—Vice Moderator.

Rev. D. W. Poole—Clerk.

Earnest Owens—Treasurer.

By vote of the body Prospect Church at Dothan, Alabama was chosen host to the 1946 session of the association.

By motion clerk was authorized to have five hundred copies of the minutes of this association printed on a competitive basis.

By motion clerk was paid ten dollars for his services.

By motion moderator was paid ten dollars for his services.

By motion a rising vote of thanks was given Union Hill Church for their hospitalities.

By motion this association adjourned to meet with Prospect Church, November 1st and 2nd, 1946.

D. F. PELT, Moderator.

D. W. POOLE, Clerk.

COMMITTEE REPORTS.

We, your committee on committees, make the following recommendation: For committee on nomination—E. T. Ingram, C. L. Cook and E. S. Jones.

For committee on finances—Sister Joe Johnson, C. E. Day and F. W. Bolin.

For program committee—Rufus Hyman, J. W. Roberts and D. F. Pelt.

Respectfully submitted,

EARNEST OWENS.

E. T. INGRAM.

RUFUS HYMAN.



REPORT OF FINANCE COMMITTEE.

We, your committee on finances beg leave to make the following report:

We find 5 associations represented in this body from which

we received the following dues:

Liberty -----	\$15.00
South Eastern -----	5.00
Union Hill -----	10.00
State Line -----	15.00
Salem -----	10.00

LOCAL CHURCHES:

Prospect -----	\$ 7.75
Union Hill -----	5.00
Spring Hill -----	5.11
Traveler's Rest -----	2.00
Damascus -----	2.00
Friendship -----	1.00
Marvin Chapel -----	2.00

TOTAL-----\$79.86

Respectfully submitted,

MRS. JOE JOHNSON.
F. W. BOLIN.
C. E. DAY.

THE REPORT OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION.

1. The needs of our church youth being so great and urgent cause us to be most interested in meeting as quickly as possible the most urgent of these needs.

The youth of our church should be made to feel that the church does not wish to push them aside as spectators while the older members boss, guide, and run the ship of church. We should make them feel that they are a part (in fact, a very vital part) of the church.

Since a training camp will aid the youth in finding and filling their place in our church program, we purpose to give first priority to the establishment of such a center. We will accept the responsibility involved with faith, hope and a determination to do our part.

2. The funds allotted to this board which shall come through the general budget, shall be budgeted as follows:

1. 50% for the upkeep and expense of the training camp.
2. 50% to assist young preachers in their efforts to acquire an education.

3. We recommend the publication of a Free Will Baptist paper by this association. This paper shall be known as "The South Alabama West Florida Free Will Baptist Paper."

This paper is to be made possible, financially, by each church paying a fee of \$2.00 monthly, for which they will receive 20 copies of the paper to be distributed among the members.

We recommend the election of an editor and manager in this session. Both of these jobs are to be filled by one person.

THE PLANS OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE.

1. Since the church of tomorrow must be composed of the young people of today, and since the spiritual strength and efficiency of the church

is dependent upon the training, knowledge and sound doctrinal faith of its members, we recommend the building of a camp, for the youth of our church, at the earliest possible date.

2. In order to make the camp a possibility financially, we recommend the appointment of five field workers.

1. Rev. Rufus Hyman—Salem Association.
2. Bro. Fletcher Bolin—Union Hill Association.
3. Rev. G. H. Jordan—State Line Association.
4. Bro. Ernest Owens—Liberty Association.
5. Rev. D. F. Pelt—Southeastern Association.

We would like for each church to be canvassed by April 6, 1946.

The training camp is a part of our educational program. Therefore, the board of education will be responsible for any business arrangements that may be necessary in connection with our field workers. It is also the duty of the Board of Education to select and purchase a site for the camp and act as a building committee.

All funds collected by our field workers must be sent to our associational treasurer. These funds are to be used for training camp purposes only.

3. We recommend that this organization support the Alabama Orphanage, located at Eldridge, Alabama.

4. We recommend the following plans and budget for our local churches.

1. Each local church should have only one treasurer and all funds should be in this treasure.

2. The funds of this treasure should be allotted, or budgeted in the following manner:

(a) Pastor	50%
(b) Local church expense.....	10%
(c) Education	10%
(d) Mission	20%
(e) Building fund	10%

3. The funds budgeted to education and missions should be mailed quarterly to the treasurer of this body who, in turn, will allocate them according to the budget in operation in this body.

4. The budget for this body should be,

(a) All fees from churches and associations shall be used to pay the current expenses of this body.

(b) 50% of the education funds will be sent to the Bible School in Nashville, Tenn., and 50% of said funds shall remain in the treasure of this body to be used at the discretion of the board of education.

(c) 50% of the mission funds received shall be sent to the treasurer of the National Board of Missions and 50% shall remain in the treasure of this body to be used at the discretion of the board of missions, locally.

D. F. PELT, Chairman.

PROGRAM FOR THE SECOND SESSION (1946)

Friday Morning—Rev. Rufus Hyman in charge of all announcements.

- 10:00 Devotion—Rev. J. W. Roberts
- 10:15 Welcome Address—Pastor.
- 10:25 Response—Ernest Owens.
- 10:35 Appointment of Committees.
- 11:00 Song Service—led by J. Long Stokes.
- 11:20 Introductory Sermon—Rev. D. F. Pelt.
- 12:00 Noon Hour.
- 1:30 Devotion—Rev. Fleming McDuffie.
- 1:45 Report of Credentials Committee.
- 2:00 Special Music—Henry County Quartet.
- 2:10 Address on Education—Rev. T. B. Mellette.
- 2:40 Assignment of delegates.
- 3:00 Adjournment.

FRIDAY EVENING.

- 7:00 Devotion—Rev. I. O. Cook.
- 7:15 Sermon Whole Christian Program—Rev. E. T. Shutes.

SATURDAY MORNING.

- 10:00 Devotions—Miss Mary Edna Brown.
- 10:15 Report of Planning Board.
- 10:35 Report of Board of Education.
- 11:00 Song Service—led by Herbert Roney.
- 11:20 Sermon on Tithing—Rev. Floyd Cherry.
- 12:00 Noon Hour.
- 1:30 Devotion—Rev. L. C. Mixon.
- 1:45 Report of Board of Missions.
- 2:00 Report of Board of Superannuation.
- 2:15 Miscellaneous Business.
- 3:00 Adjournment.

RUFUS HYMAN.
J. W. ROBERTS.
D. F. PELT.

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS.

We, the Free Will Baptists of South Alabama and West Florida, for the sake of power that comes of unity and oneness of purpose; for the advancement of the cause of Christ; for the glory of God and the good of mankind do ordain and establish this constitution and by-laws:

ARTICLE 1. NAME OF ASSEMBLY.

Section 1. This assembly shall be known as "The Florida State Association of Free Will Baptists.

ARTICLE 2. OFFICERS, DELEGATES AND FEES.

Section 1. The officers of this Association shall be a moderator, an assistant moderator, a clerk, a treasurer, an executive board, a planning

board, and any other officers that the association, while in session, may decide to add because of changes or necessity.

Section 2. This association shall be composed of delegates elected from the local associations, belonging to this body, delegates elected from the local churches, embraced by the various local associations and all ministers belonging to these local associations and churches.

The delegates shall be elected as follows: One delegate from each local church composed of one hundred members or fraction thereof, and one delegate for each additional hundred members, or fraction thereof; five delegates from each local association composed of fifteen churches, or a fraction thereof, and one additional delegate for each additional four churches or fraction thereof. The additional delegates cannot be used unless the churches are active and are represented in the session in which they are appointed.

Section 3. Ministers cannot be appointed as delegates from the local associations or churches. All visitors and ministers who do not belong to or pastor for this body can only be seated as honorary members.

Section 4. All churches and associations representing in this body shall pay an entrance fee annually. The amount of this fee shall be determined by the body while in session and may be changed by a two-thirds vote in any session.

Section 5. All funds coming into this body shall be spent under a budget plan. This budget must be approved by the body while in session and no funds may be used in any way except as budgeted.

Section 6. It shall be the duty and power of the delegates of this body to make all laws which shall be necessary for the carrying on of the work of this association, and all these laws must be in keeping with this constitution and must be kept on record so conflicting regulations may be avoided.

Section 7. Fifty (50) per cent of the delegates elect shall constitute a quorum.

Section 8. All officers except board members shall be elected to serve a term of two years.

Section 9. Any officer may be re-elected as the body shall see fit, but the officers, or nominees, must give his consent to serve willingly.

Section 10. When vacancies occur either by death or removal from office, or by resignation the body shall fill vacancy either by proxy or by election of officer to the vacancy at any regular session of the body and the proxy may be appointed by the body to fill any absentee's place who does not attend the session.

Section 11. Election years shall be odd years. Thus the regular elections shall take place on odd years of the calendar.

Section 12. All standing boards shall be composed of one (1) member from each association and their term of office shall be four (4) years. Two being elected at each election year. The first two named shall be elected for only a term of two years. Thereafter all shall be elected as specified

herein.

Section 13. This body shall have and does reserve the right to deal with any officer or board member who does not conduct his or her office in a christian and business like manner according to rules of christian conduct laid down in the teachings of the New Testament. Thus the right to discipline in this body is confined to this body, but a charge against a member of this body and the members of local churches shall constitute a charge against said member in this body and the body shall abide accordingly thereby.

ARTICLE 3. DUTIES OF OFFICERS AND BOARDS.

Section 1. It shall be the duty of the moderator to preside over all the deliberations of this body while in session.

Section 2. The moderator shall have power to rule measures out of order providing this ruling is sustained by one-third of the delegates present.

Section 3. The Vice-moderator shall assume the duties, rights and privileges of the moderator in his absence.

Section 4. The Vice-moderator shall be ex-officio member of all boards and committees.

Section 5. It shall be the duty of the clerk to make and keep records of all the business proceedings and activities of this body.

Section 6. It shall be the duty of the treasurer to receive and keep all funds, pay all bills and keep records of receipts and disbursements.

Section 7. All officers and board members must be Free Will Baptist who are in good standing in their respective churches and associations, must belong to this body and must, when elected, live within the bounds of the association. The treasurer must give bond.

Section 8. It shall be the duty of the planning board to provide general plans for this association, make the budget and regulate fees.

Section 9. The moderator, vice-moderator, clerk and treasurer shall act as the executive board. This board shall act for the association when the body is not in session. All action of the executive board becomes void when the association meets unless sustained by two-thirds of the delegates present.

ARTICLE 4. AMENDMENTS.

Section 1. Amendments to this constitution must be put before the body while in session one day before voted on, and must be read at least twice, and passed by two-thirds of delegates present. All amendments must be ratified by 3 of the associations now belonging to the body and by a majority of the the associations belonging to same, should other associations join us in the future.

ARTICLE 5. RATIFICATION.

Section 1. Before this constitution becomes effective it must be ratified by 4 of the 5 associations belonging to this body and by at least 50 of the 82 local churches embraced by the same.