

**MINUTES**  
**OF THE**  
**SEVENTH ANNUAL SESSION**  
**OF THE**  
**Georgia State Convention**  
**UNITED FREE WILL BAPTISTS**

**—HELD WITH—**

**OZION CHURCH, ATKINSON COUNTY**  
**GA., NOV. 8, 1922**

# MINUTES

## WEDNESDAY MORNING SESSION.

The Convention was called to order by former Moderator J. A. Blanton by singing Song No. 172 Popular Hymns. Prayer by the Moderator.

The Moderator announced the Convention ready for business.

Enrolled associations and delegates as follows:

Georgia Union Association—Rev. Neel H. Parish, Rev. A. L. Davison.

South Georgia—Rev. J. A. Blanton.

Liberty—Rev. W. A. Pope.

Little River—Rev. M. F. Cason, Rev. J. B. Harris, J. H. K. Jones, C. H. Roberts, Rev. C. T. Hinton, M. C. Corbett and Wm. Wilson.

Midway—Rev. W. T. Wiley, Rev. J. G. Harris, Rev. S. Eley, Rev. E. S. Cheshire, T. G. Harvey, R. A. Hudson, D. F. Walker and Jas. Cheshire.

Permanently organized by electing M. F. Cason Moderator, Jas. Cheshire Clerk, T. G. Harvey Treasurer and Neel H. Parish corresponding secretary.

Motion that Mission Board and Executive Committee be composed of five as follows: R. A. Hudson, A. L. Davison, W. H. Deloach, M. C. Corbett and J. T. Lee.

Committee on Suggestions—W. T. Wiley, Neel H. Parish, W. A. Pope, J. A. Blanton and C. T. Hinton.

Committee on Missions—A. L. Davison, R. A. Hudson, Wm. Wilson, J. H. K. Jones and J. B. Harris.

Motion to adjourn for preaching and dinner to meet at 1:30.

Preaching was to be by W. T. Wiley.

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## WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON SESSION.

Met per adjournment. Sang song. Prayer by Rev. E. S. Cheshire. Called for reports of committees.

Report on Missions. We, your committee on Missions, beg leave to make the following report: We recommend that this Convention advocate missions, and we further recommend that each preacher throughout the several associations preach missions and take up collections quarterly for the same. We also recommend that this convention appoint a State Evangelist. A. L. DAVISON, Chairman.

Motion to receive report and adopt same, with the exception of putting out an Evangelist.

Report of Committee on Suggestions. We beg leave to make the following report: Be it hereby resolved by this body, that we recommend that all our pastors throughout the State stress before their churches the importance of State Missions and take public collections at least quarterly, funds to be sent immediately to State Treasurer for

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carrying on Evangelistic and Mission work in and throughout the State, as it is the purpose of this Convention to undertake the organization of new churches in towns and counties wherever needed. Second, we endorse the plan of Bro. W. B. Everett, financial agent of the Freewill Baptist College, now under construction in Ayden, N. C., in reference to the appointing of one sister in each church whose duty it shall be to solicit funds to assist in finishing said college and the pastors appoint such a sister and the funds that are collected by her be sent to the State Treasurer, T. G. Harvey, Jakin, Ga., and he send the funds to W. B. Everett, Financial Agent, Ayden, N. C. Respectfully submitted, C. G. HINTON, W. T. WILEY, W. A. POPE, NEEL H. PARRISH, J. A. BLANTON, Chm.

Motion that report be received and be taken up by sections, read and discussed. Motion to adopt report as a whole.

Motion that we elect an editor for Georgia to write up articles to be sent to Freewill Baptist, Ayden, N. C., for publication.

Motion that Neel H. Parrish be elected associate editor and the Moderator of each Association write up articles and send them to the Associate Editor to be condensed and sent to press.

Motion that the next State Convention convene with New Bethel church, seven miles north of Sylvester, Worth county, Ga., on Wednesday morning before the second Sunday in November, 1923. Delegates will be met at Sylvester Wednesday morning.

Motion that the Treasurer send ten dollars to the National Treasurer.

Motion that we elect Bro. J. A. Blanton as one delegate to the National Convention to convene at Damascus, Ga.

Motion that the Clerk have 1,000 minutes printed and draw on Treasurer for same.

Motion to hear report of Treasurer.

#### Report of Treasurer.

Amount on hand January 1, 1922 .....	\$123.94
Nov. 16. Received .....	19.00
Dec. 20. Received .....	40.00
Paid J. A. Blanton .....	\$40.00
Paid Ayden Publishing Company .....	50.00
Paid N. H. Parrish .....	50.00
Balance on hand .....	87.94
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	\$182.94    \$182.94

T. G. HARVEY, Treasurer.

Motion to receive report of Treasurer.

Motion to pay Clerk \$15.00.

Motion that we tender our thanks to this church and community for their kind hospitality shown us.

Motion to adjourn to meet with New Bethel church, Worth county, Ga., on Wednesday before second Sunday in November, 1923.

Prayer by Rev. J. A. Blanton.

Dismissed by Rev. S. Eley.

M. F. CASON, Moderator, Ellenton, Ga.

JAMES CHESHIRE, Clerk, Colquitt, Ga.

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## CONSTITUTION OF STATE CONVENTION OF UNITED FREEWILL BAPTISTS.

1. Original United Freewill Baptists of Georgia, resolve: That we, the representatives of the Associations here represented, do form ourselves into a convention known as the State Convention of Georgia.

2. It shall be composed of such Associations in the State of Georgia as believe in and teach the original doctrines as declared in their articles of faith and are controlled by the Constitution, Government, Law and General Policy of our original Associations.

3. This Convention shall not discuss Doctrines and Queries. It shall be purely advisory. It has no shadow of authority over the Associations composing it; it can only give advice that might with equal authority be given by every individual. Each Association shall be left to transact its own business without supervision or interference.

4. It shall be the object of this Convention to evangelize the State of Georgia, and to strive to do and accomplish many other things necessary to the expansion and progress of our cause, such as Education and Christian Benevolence, that we feel that we can accomplish as a body of Associations, that no one isolated Association can accomplish.

5. This Convention while in session shall by careful investigation and research, endeavor to find out what the Associations most need to accomplish the work most necessary to be done for the general good of our cause in our State and endeavor to provide means by which same may be done.

6. This Constitution may be altered or amended at any regular session of this Convention by a majority of Associations here represented.

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## COVENANT.

Convention Covenant of the Georgia State Convention of Freewill Baptists:

Be it resolved by all Ministers and their representatives composing the Annual Convention of Free-Will Baptists of the State of Georgia, That we Covenant and agree together, and solemnly pledge that we shall, each of us, hereafter strive, individually and together, while in session and between sessions, to promote a real spirit of progress in

our Denomination. That we will encourage, admonish and in every Christian way awake and promote an interest in the cause of Missions in our churches and Associations. We covenant to give liberally of our own means and to encourage others to follow our example.

We will encourage Ministerial and all other church support that will tend to advance our Denomination more progressively.

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### DECORUM OF THE GEORGIA STATE CONVENTION OF FREEWILL BAPTISTS.

Each session of this Convention shall hereafter convene on Wednesday before the second Sunday in November of each year.

We shall organize by first receiving reports from the Ministers and Delegates representing the various churches and Associations of Freewill Baptists in the State of Georgia. After hearing reports and letters from said churches and Associations, we shall elect the following officers: A Moderator, a Secretary, a Corresponding Secretary and a Treasurer.

The Moderator shall be elected from the list of the Ministers of the Association in which the body is in Convention.

Any church of an orderly Association shall be allowed one delegate.

Each Association shall have the right to inaugurate any system of Missions which may seem to them most proper, for the extension of church work in the bounds of the Association.

All churches and Associations shall be expected to assist in the cause of State Missions, by sending up to the Treasurer of this Convention, at each regular session, such funds as may be collected by them in following the recommendations of the Convention.

The Convention shall enjoy the right to make such disposition of any and all funds sent up to the Treasurer, as they may deem to be of greatest good in the advancement of the Cause of the Free-Will Baptist Denomination in the State of Georgia.

This Convention shall have the right to appoint Evangelists for the State at large. However, each Association shall enjoy the right to appoint such Evangelists when they desire.

Any Association holding membership in this Convention shall be considered no longer a member if they shall depart from the original doctrines and practices of the Freewill Baptist church; or if any Association shall receive into her fellowship any church or preacher that stands expelled from any sister church or Association.

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### PREAMBLE.

Seeing the great need of closer UNITY among the Free Will Baptists of Georgia, and with a knowledge that the crying need is closer UNITY among the Ministers of the several Associations, in order to overcome certain conditions that have long prevailed against the pro-

gress of the Denomination in the State; certain ministers of the Georgia Union, Liberty and Little River Associations, met on August 12, 1922, at Pleasant Hill church, in Dooly county, Georgia, and did effect an organization which shall be known as the Georgia Ministerial Association of United Original Free Will Baptists.

#### MEETING.

The meeting convened at 9 o'clock Saturday morning. Opened with prayer, led by Elder J. D. Little. Short talks were then made by a number of brethren, outlining the object of the meeting, and pointing out the great success that we have reason to expect through closer UNITY.

A temporary organization was effected by the election of the following officers: Elder Neel H. Parish, chairman; Elder W. A. Pope, vice-chairman; Elder A. L. Davidson, secretary; Elder A. L. Sellars, field secretary; Elder J. D. Little, treasurer.

First, appointed a committee of three to draft a Constitution and By-Laws, by which this organization shall be governed.

The remainder of the day was devoted to informal discussions of the hindrances to a greater progress of the Free Will Baptist church in Georgia, appropriate plans being suggested as means for overcoming such hindrances.

By vote of the meeting, Elder A. L. Sellars preached at eleven o'clock a. m., Saturday; Elder J. D. Little at 7 o'clock p. m. and Elder W. A. Pope at 1 o'clock Sunday morning.

After disposing of miscellaneous matters, it was moved to hold an adjourned session at Ozias church, in Atkinson county, one day in advance of State Convention, which convenes with Ozias church on November 8th, 1922. Benedictory prayer by Elder W. A. Pope.

NEAL H. PARISH, Chairman,  
A. L. DAVIDSON, Secretary.

#### ADJOURNED SESSION.

The Georgia Ministerial Association of United Original Free Will Baptists convened with Ozias church, in Atkinson county, Georgia, November 7, 1922, as per adjournment. Meeting was called to order by the Chairman at 9 o'clock a. m. Prayer by Chairman. After some discussion, it was moved to make permanent the temporary organization.

As the following brethren were present to be in attendance with the State Convention, it was moved to invite them to sit with us, with the privilege of offering counsel, and to act in the capacity of Committeemen: Bros. R. A. Hudson, T. G. Harvey, Jas. Cheshire, M. C. Corbitt, —. —. Cheshire and Bro. —. —. Williams.

Moved that we have a committee of three on Investigations. Bros. T. G. Harvey, M. C. Corbitt and J. B. Harris were appointed.

The following ministers were enrolled:

**Ordained Ministers and Postoffice:**

Elder J. A. Blanton—Surrency, Ga.  
 Elder M. F. Cason—Ellenton, Ga.  
 Elder S. Eley—Brinson, Ga.  
 Elder A. L. Davidson—Pineview, Ga.  
 Elder J. G. Harris—Arlington, Ga.  
 Elder J. B. Harris—Lenox, Ga.  
 Elder Neal H. Parish—Hahira, Ga.  
 Elder W. A. Pope—Camilla, Ga.  
 Elder W. T. Wiley, Hilton, Ga.

**Licensed Ministers and P. O.:**

J. A. Powers—Hahira, Ga.

The following ministers were represented by proxy:

Elder W. H. Emerson—Butler, Ga.  
 Elder W. L. Harrell—Omega, Ga.  
 Elder E. B. Joyner—Dukes, Fla.  
 Elder H. L. Lumpkin—Mauk, Ga.  
 Elder D. J. Edwards—Pelham, Ga.  
 Elder J. D. Little—Sycamore, Ga.  
 Elder A. L. Sellars—Camilla, Ga.

Moved that we hear report of Committee on Constitution and BY-LAWS. Report read and adopted. See Constitution and By-Laws.

Moved that we recess for preaching and refreshments. Voted that Elder Neal H. Parish preach. Benediction by Elder M. F. Cason.

**AFTERNOON.**

Called to order by the Chairman at 1:30 p. m. Prayer by Elder J. G. Harris.

Moved that a committee of three be appointed on Recommendations. Chair appointed the following: Elders M. F. Cason, W. A. Pope and Bro. T. G. Harvey.

Moved that the Chair appoint Covenant Committee of three. Appointed Elders W. T. Wiley, J. G. Harris and Bro. R. A. Hudson.

Moved at three o'clock that we recess for one hour in order that committees make up reports.

Reconvened at 4:00 o'clock as per recess.

Moved to hear report of Committee on Recommendations. Report read and adopted.

Moved to hear report of Covenant Committee. Report read and adopted.

Moved that Elder J. G. Harris preach at 7:00 o'clock tonight.

Moved that minutes of this Association be printed in same cover with State Convention minutes.

Moved that Elder S. Eley preach Introductory Sermon for the next session of the Association.

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Moved to adjourn, to meet one year from this date with New Bethel church, near Sylvester, Ga. Benedictory prayer by Elder W. A. Pope.

ELDER NEAL H. PARISH, Chairman,  
ELDER A. L. DAVIDSON, Secretary.

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### CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS.

SECTION 1. This organization shall be known as the Georgia Ministerial Association of the United Original Free Will Baptists.

SEC. 2. The object of this Association shall be to bring together our Ministers throughout the State of Georgia, for the purpose of counseling together in devising plans for carrying on a greater work in the interest of the Free Will Baptist church.

SEC. 3. This Association shall be composed of such Ordained and Licensed Ministers as may at any time be admitted therein upon their application in person, by letter or by proxy.

SEC. 4. This Association shall have for its officers a Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, Field Secretary, and a Treasurer. These shall be elected annually, by ballot, or as the Association may deem proper.

SEC. 5. This Association shall have an Investigating Committee composed of one preacher of each Association represented, appointed at each session. The duty of this Committee shall be to make such investigations as to the character of applicants for membership, as will convince the Committee that said applicant is orderly and worthy.

SEC. 6. The sessions of this Association shall be held annually, and adjourned sessions may be held when thought proper. The annual sessions shall meet at the same place as the State Convention, and one day in advance of Convention.

SEC. 7. This Constitution may be altered or amended in any annual session, by two-thirds majority of those present.

SEC. 8. Members of this Association, while meeting is in session, shall be governed by the common parliamentary rules which govern Associations or like deliberative meetings.

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### COVENANT OF THE MINISTERIAL ASSOCIATION.

Having professed a call into the gospel ministry, and having taken upon ourselves the many obligations of the Minister of Christ and having through His divine providences been brought together in this capacity, with the hope of better extending His glorious Kingdom, we solemnly covenant and agree together, that we shall, through this Association, endeavor to promote the best interests of the Free Will Baptist denomination, we will watch over and encourage each other as Ministers with brotherly love, guarding closely the reputation of our Ministry, and in every way possible, encourage and help each other to a life of greater usefulness.

We will advocate Ministerial support, in order that the life of our Ministers may become more devoted to the preaching of the Gospel.

We will advocate State Missions among the churches, in order to build up churches where we have none, and for the support of sister churches that are weak financially and in numbers, to the extent that they would finally cease to exist without our help.

We further covenant and agree that we will endeavor to arouse our brother Ministers over the State, getting them to see the great importance of their becoming associated with us in this our effort to bring our Ministers and churches into closer unity.

We will strive together to bring about closer unity of all true Free Will Baptists, and we will teach our people by example as well as by precept, to give of their means to the support of the many worthy Institutions of our Denomination.

ELDER W. T. WILEY, Chairman.

#### REPORT OF RECOMMENDATIONS COMMITTEE.

We, as your Committee, offer the following as our recommendations to this Association:

We recommend that all Ministers present encourage others of our Ministers to join us in this Association and the great work of the State Convention, in the effort to unite the true Free Will Baptist forces of Georgia.

Knowing as we do, that often reports against the character of some Minister gains circulation, which does not alone bring him into public disrespect, but even lessens public confidence in the Ministry in general, such reports have often been found to be untrue; however, too often they prove to be true, and always prove a source of humiliation to the more consecrated Ministry; therefore, we recommend that this Association shall have a standing Committee of not less than five in number, whose duty it shall be, in the case reports shall gain circulation making the moral character of a Minister questionable, to call themselves together, notify said Minister to be present, when they shall make due investigation of such reports, and if they shall find said reports to be untrue, they shall exonerate, and by every reasonable means protect said Minister; however, if they shall find reports to be true, they shall report to his church and Association the findings of said committee, together with all proofs and shall recommend his church and Association to deal with him.

T. G. HARVEY, SR., Chairman.

Upon the reading of the foregoing report, it was adopted and the Ministers were appointed who shall compose said committee, as follows: Elders S. Eley, chairman, M. F. Cason, A. L. Davidson, H. L. Lumpkin, W. A. Pope.