

1943

MINUTES

of the

Forty-Ninth Annual Session

of the

Georgia Union Association

of the

ORIGINAL FREE WILL BAPTIST

Which Convened With Christian Hill Church

In Wilcox County, Georgia

October 8, 1943

Officers:

Rev. J. F. Smith, Moderator	Eastman, Ga.
Ernest J. Barker, Clerk	Rochelle, Ga.
T. B. Ethridge, Treasurer	

NEXT SESSION

The next session will convene with Pine Level Church, Dodge County, Georgia, on Friday morning, October 13, 1944.

A. C. Thulech

PROCEEDINGS

Forty-ninth annual session of the Georgia Union Association of the Free Will Baptist church convened with Christian Hill church, Wilcox County, Friday, October 8, 1943.

Called to order by Moderator. After singing, "I'll be satisfied," 133 Psalm was read, prayer was offered by Rev. Emmett McDuffie.

Called for Associational letters. The letters were read and received, with some to be corrected as to show the pastors for the coming year, also that the delegates be seated in following order.

Antioch: Bro J. H. Owens, Sister Bertha Owens.

Christian Hill: Bros. George Rhodes, Ernest J. Barker, Lewis McKinney, Sisters Nora Rhodes, Ethel McDuffie.

Bay Springs: Bro. I. M. Smith, Sister Alma Smith.

Double Branch: Bros. J. B. Lankford, T. B. Ethridge, J. R. Cromer and wife, J. P. Nobles and wife.

Mt. Ararat: Bros. M. I. Hardin and wife, B. I. Peacock, Mrs. W. J. Harris, Bro. J. H. Peacock and wife.

Pleasant Hill: Bro. Lewis Clark and wife, Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Tharpe, Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Tharpe, W. W. Hobbs, Viola Hobbs.

Pine Level: Bros. E. L. Long, W. W. Estes, Reason Bacon, Donald Self, W. H. Nobles, F. A. Register.

New Ebenezer: A. P. Scarborough, E. R. Roland, Sister Ida Cock.

Woodlawn: G. B. Pierce, Mrs. Mattie Pierce.

Bethlehem: J. T. Bartlett and wife, J. C. Lewis and wife.

Beulah Spring: Bros. H. E. Bridges, B. J. Johnson.

Little Bethel: Bros. W. C. Powell, Robert Rogers, J. W. Fordham.

On motion we suspended roll call.

On call of Moderator the Association took up the election of officers and the following were elected by acclamation:

Elder J. F. Smith, Moderator; Ernest J. Barker, Clerk; T. B. Ethridge, Treasurer; Wesley Hobbs, Mission Treasurer; Rev. J. L. Poston, Vice Moderator.

On motion, we omit the establishment of a conference bar.

Called for petitionary letters. None were received.

Called for corresponding messengers of other bodies. Bro. Elvin Davidson and wife, Bro. Morris and wife from South Georgia Association; Bro. C. H. Moore and wife, Bro. H. L. Lumpkin, Bro. J. B. Lumpkin from Chattahoochee Association; Bro. Jim Little of Little River Association. On motion the delegates were given right hand of fellowship by Moderator and seated with the body.

On motion Moderator appoint various committees. They were appointed as follows:

Devotional: Lewis McKinney, Emmett Long, J. H. Peacock.

State of Churches and Character of the Ministry: J. B. Lankford, G. T. Rhodes, Henry Nobles, W. W. Hobbs, Robert Rogers.

Discipline and Worship: Rev. J. D. Payne, Rev. Neal H. Parrish, Charles McCarthy.

Finance: I. M. Smith, J. R. Cromer, T. B. Ethridge, W. W. Estes.

Mission: Sisters Laura Bell Barnard, Mrs. M. I. Hardin, J. R. Smith.

Temperance: J. W. Fordham, H. E. Bridges, B. J. Johnson.

Christian Education: Rev. J. L. Poston, Rev. Neal H. Parrish, Donald Self.

Sunday School: J. R. Cromer, Bertha Owens, Alma Smith.

Women's Work: Ethel McDuffie, Mattie Pearl Rhodes, Mrs. Nora Rhodes.

Resolution: Reason Bacon, J. H. Owens, W. C. Powell.

On motion next session convene with Pine Level Church, Friday, Oct. 13, 1944. Rev. Charles McCarthy voted to preach introductory sermon.

Called for ministerial reports.

On motion reports were read by Clerk. All were accepted by the body. (See Reports)

On motion we suspend regular business, taking up miscellaneous business.

On motion we have 300 minutes printed.

On motion we have our Church Letter forms printed within minutes.

On motion we pay Clerk \$10.00 and Moderator \$5.00.

An offering of \$10.65 was taken to pay corresponding messengers.

Devotional report was read and adopted. (See Report).

On motion Moderator appointed delegates to State Association as follows: Bro. J. D. Payne and wife, Bro. Emmett Long. Expenses to be paid by this body.

On motion we adjourn until 10 o'clock Saturday A. M.

SATURDAY A. M.

Devotions by Vice Moderator, 2nd chapter of 1st Peter. Prayer by Rev. C. H. Moore.

Roll call of committees.

At this time a call was made for committee reports. Those read and adopted were in following order:

Discipline and Worship: (See Report.)

Finance: (See Report.)

Mission: (See Report.)

At this time the body asked sister Laura Bell Barnard to give a brief sketch of hers and others work in connection with foreign Missions. Telling of her 5 years work in India was of much interest to all present. Having been asked by mission committee for this

body to raise \$25.00 as part of the State goal, an offering was taken raising an amount of \$32.35.

By-Laws committee was appointed as follows: Rev. Emmett McDuffie, Rev. J. L. Poston, I. M. Smith.

On motion we adjourn for preaching and refreshments.

SATURDAY P. M.

Called to order by Moderator. After singing several songs, prayer was offered by Bro. Elvin Davidson.

At this time Bro. Morris made a short talk, asking that this body send a delegation to State Association.

A call was made for other reports.

Sunday School: (See Report.)

Women's Work: (See Report.)

Resolutions: (See Report.)

By-Laws: (See Report.)

Temperance: (See Report.)

Christian Education: (See Report.)

State of Churches and character of Ministers: (See Report.)

On motion corresponding messengers were appointed to various Associations, expenses to be paid by this body, when an itemized statement of traveling expenses are reported to Clerk and Treasurer.

To Little River: Rev. Neal H. Parrish, W. W. Potter.

To Martin: Rev. J. D. Payne and wife.

To South Georgia: Rev. J. F. Smith, Rev. J. L. Poston.

To Chattahoochee: J. B. Lankford.

On motion each corresponding messenger carry a letter from this body signed by Moderator and Clerk.

On motion the minutes shall carry the names, address and the name of churches of each executive committeeman.

On motion the resignation of T. B. Ethridge and I. M. Smith of Executive committee was accepted.

On motion L. W. McKinney and W. W. Hobbs were elected as members of executive committee.

On motion the resignation of Rev. J. F. Smith of the ordaining council was accepted.

On motion Rev. J. L. Poston, Rev. J. D. Payne and Rev. Emmett McDuffie were elected as members of the Ordaining Council, being elected for a period of 3 years.

A rising vote of thanks was extended to Christian Hill Church and community for its hospitality and entertainment.

On motion this body enters into the Ordination service of Bro. G. C. Sullivan.

On motion Clerk omit reading of minutes, but edit and prepare same for publication.

On motion, the Association adjourned to meet with Pine Level church on Oct. 13, 1944.

REV. J. F. SMITH, Moderator,
ERNEST J. BARKER, Clerk.

EXECUTIVE BOARD, THEIR CHURCH AND ADDRESS

J. B. Lankford—Double Branch	Pinehurst, Ga.
W. H. Peacock—Mt. Ararat	Eastman, Ga.
W. H. Nobles—Pine Level	Chester, Ga.
L. W. McKinney—Christian Hill	Abbeville, Ga. R.
W. W. Hobbs—Pleasant Hill	Vienna, Ga. R.

ORDAINING COUNCIL AND THEIR ADDRESSES

Rev. J. L. Poston	Chester, Ga.
Rev. Emmett McDuffie	Rochelle, Ga., R. 2
Rev. J. D. Payne	Danville, Ga.

ORDAINED MINISTERS AND THEIR ADDRESSES

Elder Neal H. Parrish	Hahira, Ga.
Elder C. E. Peacock	Route 3, Eastman, Ga.
Elder P. A. Sangster	Route 2, Waycross, Ga.
Elder Emmett McDuffie	Route 2, Rochelle, Ga.
Elder B. F. Horne	Eastman, Ga.
Elder John Hightower	Macon, Ga.
Elder J. F. Smith	Eastman, Ga.
Elder T. F. McMurphy	Macon, Ga.
Elder L. S. Yates	Danville, Ga.
Elder J. L. Poston	Chester, Ga.
Elder J. D. Payne	Danville, Ga.
Elder Charles McCarthy	Empire, Ga.
Elder R. Smith	Gresston, Ga.
Elder G. C. Sullivan	Pinehurst, Ga.

COMMITTEE ON STATE OF CHURCHES AND CHARACTER OF MINISTERS

We, your committee report that we find that the Executive committee erred in the handling of the case of Bro. Neal H. Parrish. We find that he is in good standing with his church. We find that all ministers and all churches are in good standing except Bro. J. R. Smith. We, the committee find that Bro. J. R. Smith will make acknowledgements to his church.

J. B. LANKFORD, Chm.

DEVOTIONAL REPORT

We, your committee appointed Bro. Morris to preach Friday night, Bro. Jim Little close and Bro. C. H. Moore preach Saturday morning and Bro. J. B. Lumpkin close.

J. H. PEACOCK, Chm.

FINANCE REPORT

We, your committee find for minutes	\$65.66
We find in Mission Treasury	\$62.99
W. W. ESTES, Chm.	

TEMPERANCE REPORT

We, your committee on Temperance beg to make our report. We ask that our pastors preach more on this subject, and that we abstain from all strong drink, or offer to another, that we keep ourselves unspotted from the world, and live as christians should live.

H. E. BRIDGES, Chm.

EDUCATION REPORT

We, your committee on christian education most earnestly recommend that both our ministers and laymen subscribe to our papers published in Ayden, N. C., and Monett, Missouri, and that our Sunday schools use our own Free Will Baptist literature, also our Leagues use our own League literature. We also recommend that our young pastors avail themselves of every opportunity for self-improvement in education.

J. L. POSTON, Chm.

RESOLUTION REPORT

We, your committee submit this report, that our ministers work more. We see the harvest is great and the laborers few, that fathers and mothers have a family altar and be willing for their children to take pattern after their lives. We also suggest our pastors regard the pulpit more than they have.

REASON BACON, Chm.

WOMEN'S WORK

We, your committee on Women's Work make the following report. The Home Mission work reported in our various church letters is a work sponsored by our women. We are helped in this by some of our men, and thankful of the progress we have made. Pray for us that in the near future God will raise up a leader in our midst who is both capable and willing to lead us into being organized into women's Auxiliary Societies.

MRS. NORA RHODES, Chm.

SUNDAY SCHOOL REPORT

We, your committee find that just a few of our churches have a Sunday school and we recommend that all of our churches organize a Sunday school as that is the best method of training our young people and bringing them to Christ. We also urge them to use Free

Will Baptist Literature.

MRS. BERTHA OWENS, Chm.

DISCIPLINE AND WORSHIP

We, your committee make the following report. We urge our people observe the Discipline of our church and also urge that we have our Discipline read twice a year in our church and that our pastors preach a doctrinal sermon at least once a year.

Humbly submitted.

J. D. PAYNE, Chm.

REPORT ON MISSIONS

We, the committee on Missions, commend the members of Christian Hill church for their good work in contributing \$2.50 to the total of \$85.50 (plus 4 blankets) that was raised by Free Will Baptist churches in Georgia to equip our F. W. B. Bible school in Cuba with blankets. We, the committee recommend that:

1st. All pastors in the Georgia Union Association fully acquaint themselves, through our missionary literature and personal contacts, with first hand sources with the entire missionary work now being carried on by the National body of Free Will Baptists, and that they lead their congregations to share in the support and blessing of the work.

2nd. Each pastor in this Association arrange to have one of our returned missionaries or some other person well acquainted with our mission work, visit his church or churches and give the congregation an opportunity to hear of our various fields of work.

3rd. This Association undertake to raise the sum of \$25.00 towards the \$400.00 which Georgia will raise this Associational year for our National Foreign Missions Treasury, and that this money be sent through our State Association.

4th. This Association cooperate through our State Association, with the Home Missions Program of the National Association of the Free Will Baptists.

LAURA BELLE BARNARD, Chm.

ANNUAL MINISTERIAL REPORT

PASTORS NAME	Sermons Preached	Churches Restored	Revivals Held	Professions With	No. Baptized	Additions to Church	Churches Organized	Funerals Preached	Miles Traveled	Money Received
Charles McCarthy	6								120	None
G. C. Sullivan	65	1	1	6					1000	\$43.90
J. R. Smith	15								2	25 \$3.00
J. D. Payne	95	2	4	11	5	11			32431	\$117.44
Emmett McDuffie	87	1	3		10	12			12470	\$111.14
N. R. Sullivan	43	1	2						3910	\$63.50
C. E. Peacock	26		2						1	675 \$32.55
J. F. Smith	76	2	4	1	20	22			21500	\$174.48
T. F. McMurphy	7								50	\$2.50
J. L. Poston	14								300	\$2.00

OBITUARIES

IN MEMORY OF SISTER BONNIE ALLEN ETHRIDGE

Sister Ethridge was a member of Double Branch church. She was a fine christian lady. She was about 30 years of age. To know her was to love her.

Farewell Sister Ethridge till we meet again. Written by her pastor,

ELD. C. H. MOORE

IN MEMORY OF BRO. MORRIS SINGLETON

Brother Singleton was a member of Double Branch church, he was a church member for 55 years and he loved his church and loved its cause. He lived to a ripe old age. He was 95 years old, a devoted christian and happy in Christ all these 55 years. To know uncle Morris was to love him.

Your years on earth was a long story, to gain our Master's prize. To earth and friends you bid farewell to meet your Christ in the skies.

Written by his pastor,

ELD. C. H. MOORE

IN MEMORY OF OUR DEAD

Pine Level, Rev. C. B. Ethridge, Macon, Ga., died in 1942. Bro. J. W. Nobles, Deacon, died in Nov. 1942. Our loss is heaven's gain.

ARTICLES OF FAITH

1. **THE BIBLE.** The Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments were given by inspiration of God, and are our infallible rules of faith and practice.

2. **GOD.** There is one living and true God, revealed in nature as the Creator of the universe; and in the Scriptures as Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, yet as one God, infinitely wise and good, whom all intelligent creatures are supremely to love, adore, obey.

3. **CHRIST.** Christ is God manifest in the flesh; in His divine nature truly God, in His human nature truly man. The mediator between God and man, once crucified, He is now risen and glorified, and is our ever present Savior and Lord.

4. **THE HOLY SPIRIT.** The Scriptures assign to the Holy Spirit all the attributes of God. He is the Reprover, Comforter, Guide and Sanctifier of men.

5. **THE GOVERNMENT OF GOD.** God exercises a wise and benevolent providence over all beings and all things by maintaining the constitution and laws of nature. He also performs special acts of grace, not otherwise provided for, as the highest welfare of man requires.

6. **THE SINFULNESS OF MAN.** Man was created innocent, but by disobedience fell into a state of sin and condemnation. His posterity, therefore, inherit a fallen nature of such tendencies that all who come to years of accountability sin, and become guilty before God.

7. **THE WORK OF CHRIST.** The Son of God by His incarnation, life, sufferings, death and resurrection, effected for all a redemption from sin that is full and free and is the ground of salvation by faith.

8. **THE TERMS OF SALVATION.** The condition of salvation are: 1. Repentance of sincere sorrow for sin and hearty renunciation of it. 2. Faith or the unreserved committal of one's self to Christ as Savior and Lord with purpose to love and obey Him in all things. In the exercise of saving faith the soul is renewed by the Holy Spirit, freed from the dominion of sin and becomes a child of God. 3. Continuance in faith and obedience until death.

9. **ELECTION.** God determined from the beginning to save all who should comply with the conditions of salvation. Hence by faith in Christ men become his elect.

10. **FREEDOM OF THE WILL.** The human will is free and self-controlled, having power to yield to the influence of the truth and the Spirit, or to resist them and perish.

11. **SALVATION FREE.** God desires the salvation of all, the Gospel invites all, the Holy Spirit strives with all, and whosoever will may come and take of the water of life freely.

12. **PERSEVERENCE.** All believers in Christ, who through grace persevere in holiness to the end of life, have promise of eternal salvation.

13. **GOSPEL ORDINANCES, BAPTISM,** or the immersion of believers in water, and the **LORD'S SUPPER**, are ordinances to be perpetuated under the Gospel; **FEET WASHING**, an ordinance teaching humility, of universal obligation, and to be administered to all true believers.

14. **TITHING.** God commanded tithes and offerings in the Old Testament; Jesus Christ indorsed it in the Gospel (Matt. 23:23) and the apostle Paul said, "Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store as God hath prospered him." (1 Cor. 16:2.)

15. **THE CHRISTIAN SABBATH.** The divine law requires that one day in seven be set apart for secular employments and amusements, for rest, worship, holy works and activities, and for personal communion with God.

16. **RESURRECTION, JUDGMENT AND FINAL RETRIBUTION.** The Scriptures teach the resurrection of all men at the last day. They that have done good will come forth to the resurrection of life, and they that have done evil unto the resurrection of damnation; then the wicked will "go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

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 forget 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 schools, 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.

BY-LAWS

Article 1. Annual conference shall be annually held.

Art. 2. Every elder, minister and preacher, in good standing, and delegates shall duly attend.

Art. 3. If any member in the judgment of the conference, shall show anger in his discussion on any subject, he shall forfeit his seat in that conference.

Art. 4. No member of the annual conference shall be at liberty to withdraw without leave of the moderator.

Art. 5. The conference shall always adjourn by vote.

Art. 6. There shall annually be a committee of finance chosen to settle with the treasurer and report to conference.

Art. 7. The officers and standing committees shall be entitled to seats in the annual conference.

Art. 8. No Elder, minister, preacher or delegate shall, during the sitting of the annual conference, be at liberty to fill any place, as to preaching or hearing at the stage, only as liberty shall be granted by the conference.

Art. 9. Conference shall always open and adjourn by prayer and praise of God.

Art. 10. The minutes of the conference shall be signed by the moderator and the clerk.

Art. 11. Hereafter this body will not pay the expenses of corresponding delegates from other Associations.

Art. 12. Members of Ordaining Council shall hold office for a period of 3 years.

CHURCH LETTER

LETTER FROM _____ CHURCH

To the _____ (Quarterly Meeting)
(Yearly Meeting) of Free Will Baptist
(Association)

when convened with the _____ church on _____

19 _____

We send as delegates, or beloved brethren: _____

whom we pray you will receive to sit with you, and aid you in your godly deliberations.

State of Religion _____, Members Received this year _____,

Number baptized _____, Number dismissed by letter _____,

Number Excluded _____, Number Deceased _____, Resident

Members _____, Non Resident Members _____, Total

Membership _____, Condition of Prayer Meeting _____,

Condition of Sunday School _____, Average Number of Pupils

_____, Number of Officers _____, Condition of League

_____, League Membership _____, Condition of Home Mis-

sion _____, Home Mission Membership _____, Value of

Church Property _____, Amount Paid Pastor \$ _____,

Amount for Evangelistic Work \$ _____, Amount for Building

and Repairs \$ _____, Amount for Incidentals \$ _____, A-

mount for Foreign Missions \$ _____, Amount for Home Mis-

sions \$ _____, Amount for Education \$ _____, Amount for

Publication (S. S. Lit., etc.) \$ _____, Amount of Budget Money

Paid \$ _____, Amount Inclosed for Minutes \$ _____, Pas-

(Over)

CHURCH LETTER (Continued)

tor's name and address for coming year: _____

NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF MINISTERS AND DEACONS

MINISTERS	DEACONS
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Done by order of _____ Church

assembled in Conference, this _____ day of _____ 19____

Moderator _____ Address _____

Clerk _____ Address _____

Remarks: _____

ORDER OF CHURCH BUSINESS MEETINGS

1. Call to order by Moderator.
2. Open meeting with prayer.
3. Invite visiting brethren to seats.
4. Read and adopt minutes of last meeting.
5. Call for acknowledgements, and matters of dealing.
6. Report of Deacons.
7. Report of Committees.
8. Unfinished business.
9. New business.
10. Miscellaneous business.
11. Appointment of committees.
12. Adjournment.

ORDER OF BUSINESS ANNUAL CONFERENCE

1. Call to order by Moderator.
2. Call for corresponding letters from the churches.
3. Read the letters, complete and call the roll.
4. Elect and establish Conference bar.
5. Call for petitionary letters.
6. Elect Moderator, Vice Moderator, Clerk, Treasurer and Report.
7. Introduce visiting brethren, and admit them to honorary seats.
8. Call for Corresponding Messengers from other bodies.
9. Appoint D. C.
10. Appoint the various Committees.
11. Elect the place for holding the next session.
12. Call for Ministerial, and all other Conference Reports.
13. Call for reports of Committees.
14. Call for ordinances and consecrations.
15. Call for miscellaneous business; elect all officers not already elected, elect any special boards, or committees, needed; or any other matter of miscellaney.
16. Read and adopt the minutes of Conference.
17. Adjourn.

Statistical Table

CHURCHES	CLERKS	COUNTIES	PASTORS	Meeting Days	Baptized	Rec. by Letter	Con. of Faith	Lettered Out	Expelled	Restored	Deceased	Total Membership	Min. Asso. Pur.	Home Missions	Paid Pastor
Antioch	Bertha Owens	Wilcox	Grover C. Sullivan					1		2	20	\$3.00	\$		\$43.90
Bethlehem	Mrs. J. C. Lewis	Crisp	N. R. Sullivan					1			29	3.00	21.81		47.40
Beulah Spring	F. E. Bridges		J. D. Payne		3			1		3	1	46	5.06	10.00	64.30
Bay Spring	I. M. Smith		Emmett McDuffie		7						58	4.00	1.60		
Christian Hill	Ernest J. Barker	Wilcox	J. D. Payne	1	2						142	7.35	5.80		147.65
Double Branch	J. A. Crosby	Doöly	C. H. Moore								10.00				227.50
Little Bethel	Edna Fordham		J. D. Payne	4	2						47	5.00			42.43
Mt. Ararat	Olethia Graham		J. B. Lumpkin								225	5.00			142.00
New Ebenezer	Mrs. Isla Cook		J. F. Smith		2						39	6.00			68.50
Pleasant Hill	Viola Hobbs	Doöly	C. H. Moore	2	6						112	8.00			185.17
Pine Level	W. H. Nobles		J. F. Smith		18			1			2	126	6.25	2.50	82.95
Wood Lawn	Mrs. Mattie Pierce		J. L. Poston								31	3.00			5.00