

1946

MINUTES

OF THE

FIFTY - SECOND ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

Georgia Union Association

Of The Original Free Will Baptist

HELD WITH

BEULAH SPRING CHURCH

Bleckley County, Ga., Oct. 10th, 1946

Officers:

Rev. J. F. Smith, Moderator	Eastman, Ga.
Rev. Emmett McDuffie, Vice Moderator	Rochelle, Ga.
Ernest J. Barker, Clerk and Treasurer	Rochelle, Ga.
Wesley Hobbs, Mission Treasurer	Cordale, Ga.

NEXT SESSION

The next session convenes with Antioch Church, Wilcox County, Georgia on Thursday morning before second Sunday in October, 1947. Introductory sermon by Rev. J. D. Payne.

A. C. Truick

PROCEEDINGS

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 miscellany.
16. Read and adopt the minutes of Conference.
17. Adjourn.

The Fifty - Second Annual session of the Georgia Union Association of the Free Will Baptist Church convened with Beulah Spring Church, Bleckley County, Thursday, October 10, 1946. Rev. Emmett McDuffie brought a heart warming message in an introductory sermon, after having had a lengthy song and prayer service conducted by Rev. J. B. Langford. Dismissed by Rev. C. H. Moore, for refreshments.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON

Called to order by Moderator. Song and prayer service by Rev. J. B. Langford. Devotional by Moderator, from 4th chapter of Ephesians, first six verses. Moderator called for Associational letters.

On motion, Elder J. L. Poston and Sister J. D. Payne read letters. On motion, letters read and delegates seated in following order: Little Bethel: Brother and Sister Cicero Powell, Brother and Sister Early Davis.

Liberty Chapel: Sisters W. H. Gray and J. W. Hansley.

Pine Level: Bros. E. L. Long, W. W. Estes, W. H. Nobles, Sisters Grace Mullis, Otha Ramage.

Antioch: No delegates.

Beulah Spring: Bros. Homer Bridges, and G. R. Maddox.

Bay Spring: Bros. Willie Frank Smith, Johnnie Horne, Monroe Jones.

Mt. Aialat: Bro. and Sister M. I. Hardin.

Double Branch: Bro. R. H. Holmes and wife, Bro. Chester Holmes and wife, Bro. T. B. Ethridge.

Pleasant Hill: Bro. Wesley Hobbs and wife, Sister Lula Taylor.

Christian Hill: Bro. G. T. Rhodes, Bro. Ernest J. Barker and wife.

Bethlehem: Bro. J. H. Bridges.

On motion, Clerk shall insert names of any Ministers, or correct list of Ordained Ministers as need be.

Moderator called for petitionary letters. Not any were received.

On motion, election of officers by acclamation was as follows:

Elder J. F. Smith, Moderator; Elder Emmett McDuffie, Vice-Moderator; Ernest J. Barker, Clerk and Treasurer; Wesley Hobbs, Mission Treasurer.

Moderator invited any and all visiting Brothers and Sisters to seats with body. Those responding were as follows:

Bro. G. D. Floyd; Mrs. Edd Rozier; Mr. and Mrs. Bryan Arnold from Tabernacle at Macon.

Moderator called for Corresponding Messengers from other bodies.

Rev. H. L. Knighton and Rev. G. W. Price, Rev. C. H. Moore as visitors from Chattahoochee Association.

Rev. C. R. Holston from Martin Association.

Rev. H. L. Catlett from State Association.

Rev. H. G. Cruse from North Florida Association.

On motion, Moderator extended right hand of fellowship to these

brethren.

On motion, letter from North Florida Association was read and adopted.

On motion, regular order of business was suspended and corresponding Messengers gave report of their bodies as follows:

Rev. Houston, stating the Martin has gained much ground in Sunday school work.

Rev. Catrett, told how the State Association has expanded, of the various boards and the work they have been doing, especially the Mission boards. Also a great work is being done by the Education board, making it possible that young men and women who have been called to the Ministry could better prepare themselves, showing to us that we, the members of each church, should shoulder our responsibility, thereby putting over this great program. Next session of State Association convenes with Little Bethel Church, near Ideal, Georgia on November 11th, 12th and 13th, 1946.

Rev. Knighton, telling of the session the Chattahoochee Association had this year, and that the next session convenes with St. James Church, Phenix City, Ala., Friday and Saturday before 1st Sunday in October, 1947.

Rev. Price, telling of work that had been done, and of the necessity that be more concerned, that we might do a greater work.

Rev. Cruse, telling how they have fought Satan, having only nine churches within the North Florida Association, and most of them have only a small membership, he also asked that we send a delegate to correspond with them.

On motion, Bro. Parrish be excused from this body, and appointed as delegate to the North Florida Association.

On motion, Moderator, with Clerk, appoint all committees.

Devotional: T. B. Ethridge, E. L. Long and G. R. Maddox.

Finance: G. T. Rhodes, Chester Holmes and W. L. Ames n.

State of Churches and Character of Ministers: Henry Nobles, T. B. Ethridge and Cicero Powell.

Sunday School: Sisters M. I. Hardin, W. H. Gray and Cicero Powell.

Woman's Work: Sisters J. D. Payne, Lola Barker and Grace Mullis.

Christian Education: Rev. J. L. Poston, Rev. J. D. Payne and Rev. Charles McCarthy.

Temperance: Rev. J. B. Langford, John F. Ross and Bro. Roland.

On motion, we hear devotional report. (See report.)

On motion, report was accepted, with committee to be held intact.

On motion, Bro. R. H. Holmes be excused from this session.

On motion, we adjourn until 9:30 o'clock Friday morning.

FRIDAY MORNING

Song and prayer service conducted by Moderator. Devotional by Moderator, reading 11 verses of 37th Psalm.

On motion we suspend regular order of business.

Moderator asked for any one having letter from any church that was not present Friday to present at this time.

Letter from New Ebenezer was presented, being read by Clerk.

On motion, letter received and delegates seated, which were as follows: Mrs. Pauline Bradley and Mrs. John F. Ross.

On motion, next session convene with Antioch Church, Wilcox County, three miles South from Pitts, six miles Southwest from Rochelle.

On motion, committee on State of Churches and Character of Ministers take and use Ministerial reports when making their report. (See reports.)

On motion, those having reports ready will retain them, to be read when all are ready.

On motion, letter written to Bro. and Sister Payne by Bro. Yates be read before body. (See letter.)

A Free Will Baptist offering was taken for Bro. Yates, which amounted to eighty - two (\$82.00) dollars.

On motion, the money be turned over to the Treasurer of Superannuation board, and that ten dollars (\$10.00) per month be sent Bro. Yates.

Bro. Knighton took advantage of the condition at this point, and after a short but pointed outline of the work and the benefits of the Superannuation program, all present seemed more resolved to go home and really scrap for a fund from each church, whereby our aged Ministers might receive benefits therefrom.

On motion, we adjourn until one o'clock.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON

Song and prayer service conducted by Rev. J. B. Langford. Devotional by Moderator, reading fifteen verses of 17th chapter of St. John.

Moderator called for various reports and chairmen of each to read same, which were as follows:

Corresponding letter from Quarterly Conference. Letter read and delegation seated. (See letter.)

Temperance. (See report.)

State of Churches and Character of Ministers: (See report.)

Devotional: (See report.)

Women's Work: (See report.)

Christian Education: (See report.)

Finance: (See report.)

On motion, we pay treasurer \$12.48, an amount paid for Associational purposes by treasurer, after all Associational funds had been exhausted.

On motion, Rev. J. D. Payne is to preach Introductory Sermon, and Rev. J. F. Smith, alternate.

On motion, Clerk obtain report from Mission Treasurer, whereby same might be shown within minutes.

On motion, Moderator appoint corresponding Messengers to var-

ious Associations, as follows:

Chattahoochee: Rev. J. D. Payne.

Martin: Rev. N. R. Sullivan.

North Florida: Rev. Neal H. Parrish.

South Georgia: Bro. E. L. Long and Rev. J. F. Smith.

State Association: Bro. W. H. Noble.

On motion, we correspond with the Midway and Union Associations by minutes.

On motion, we send \$5.00 to State Association and \$5.00 to National Association as entrance fee.

On motion, we send to the State Association \$5.00 each for Home Mission, foreign mission, Education and Superannuation, which shall be drawn from Home Mission Treasurer.

On motion, Bro. John F. Ross be elected to executive board. (See board.)

On motion, all members of Mission Board be re-elected. (See Board.)

On motion, all members of Superannuation Board be re-elected. (See Board.)

On motion, all members of Education Board be re-elected. (See Board.)

On motion, we recommend Bro. W. H. Nobles to State Association for Superannuation, Bro. Chester Holmes for Education and Bro. John F. Ross for Mission.

On motion, we take up miscellaneous work.

On motion, we have 500 minutes printed.

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

On motion, Clerk prepare manuscript, having same printed.

A rising vote of thanks was given Beulah Spring church and surrounding community for its great hospitality and entertainment.

On motion, we adjourn to meet one year hence, with Antioch Church Wilcox County, on Thursday morning before second Sunday in October, 1947.

REV. J. F. SMITH, Moderator,

ERNEST J. BARKER, Clerk and Treas.

EXECUTIVE BOARD, THEIR CHURCH AND ADDRESS

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.
John F. Ross—New Ebenezer Cochran, 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, Wavcross, Ga.
Elder Emmett McDuffie 240 1/2 Bailey Ave., Macon, Ga.

Elder John Hightower 124 Grady St., Macon, Ga.
Elder J. F. Smith Eastman, Ga.
Elder L. S. Yates Danville, Ga.
Elder J. L. Poston Chester, Ga.
Elder J. B. Langford Hawkinsville, Ga.
Elder J. D. Payne 240 Bailey Ave., Macon, Ga.
Elder Charles McCarthy Empire, Ga.
Elder G. C. Sullivan Vienna, Ga.
Elder N. R. Sullivan Finleyson, Ga.

MISSION BOARD AND THEIR ADDRESSES

Rev. Neal H. Parrish Hahira, Ga.
W. W. Hobbs Cordele, Ga.
John F. Ross Route 3, Cochran, Ga.
Ernest J. Barker Route 2, Rochelle, Ga.
J. W. Fordham Chester, Ga.

SUPERANNUATION BOARD

W. H. Nobles Route 1, Chester, Ga.
T. B. Ethridge, Treasurer Route 1, Unadilla, Ga.
Cicero Powell Chester, Ga.

EDUCATION BOARD

W. W. Estes Chester, Ga.
Chester Holmes Route 1, Vienna, Ga.
E. R. Roland Route 3, Cochran, Ga.

DEVOTIONAL REPORT

We, your committee on devotional make the following report.
Bro. G. W. Price to preach Thursday night at (8:00) eight o'clock
and Bro. C. R. Houston close. Friday morning at eleven o'clock, Bro.
H. L. Catrett and Bro. H. L. Knighton close.

E. L. LONG, Chairman.

WOMAN'S WORK

We, your committee, are very sorry to report that we have no report to make, other than in prayer meetings and Sunday Schools. Pray for us that we may be doers of the word, and work for the upbuilding of the great cause, and the saving of souls.

MRS. J. D. PAYNE, Chairman.

COMMITTEE ON STATE OF CHURCHES AND CHARACTER OF MINISTERS

We, your committee report so far as we know, we find all ministers in good standing and also all churches are in good standing.

W. H. NOBLES, Chairman.

TEMPERANCE REPORT

We, your committee on Temperance beg to make our report. We plead to our pastors to preach, and teach more that all men should abstain from the very appearance of evil and worldly lust, and be temperate in all things, and live as true christians should live, and having more love and christian fellowship in the future than we have in the past.

REV. J. B. LANGFORD, Chairman.

EDUCATION REPORT

We, your committee on christian education submit the following report: We find that there seems to be some improvement in our Sunday Schools. More churches have reported a renewed interest in Sunday school work which is encouraging. We want to recommend that this seeming interest be taken advantage of and that our pastors preach on christian Education and also preach to and be real shepherds to the children as well as to the Superintendents and teachers of the Sunday schools. Thereby taking advantage of the facts that the gospel may be propagated by christian nature as well as by Revivalism. Also Sunday schools should be organized in every church.

Leagues should be organized in our churches where it is evident that the young people would take advantage of the training it offers.

ELD. J. L. POSTON, Chairman.

LETTER FROM QUARTERLY CONFERENCE

From the Quarterly Conference of the Georgia Union Association. To the Georgia Union Association when convened with Beulah Spring Church. We send as delegates Bro. W. H. Nobles. Herewith below is a report from the various churches of the money sent to this Conference:

Double Branch	
Home Mission	\$6.00
Foreign Mission	6.00
Education	6.00
Superannuation	6.00
TOTAL	\$24.00 \$24.00
Pine Level:	
Home Missions	\$3.00
Foreign Missions	3.00
Education	3.00
Superannuation	3.00
TOTAL	\$12.00
Liberty Chapel:	
Home Mission	\$1.00
	\$1.00

Antioch:

Home Mission	\$1.00
Superannuation	1.00
Education	1.00

\$3.00 \$ 3.00

TOTAL \$40.00

We send \$5.00 for Associational purposes, \$20.00 for Home Mission.

Done by order of the Quarterly Conference this 28th day of Sept. 1946.

REV. J. D. PAYNE, Moderator,
W. L. AMERSON, Clerk.

FINANCE REPORT

We, your committee on Finance, find the Association in debt \$12.48, and we urge each church to send at least \$10.00 for Associational purposes. We find a balance from last session:

For Superannuation	\$12.05
For Evangelistic Work	14.50
For Education	9.00
For Orphanage	5.00

TOTAL \$40.55

From Churches This Session	
For Associational Purposes	\$74.50
For Superannuation	5.00
For Evangelistic Work	
For Education	5.00

TOTAL \$125.05

We find in Mission Treasury	\$101.99
From Churches This Session	
For Home Mission	30.50
For Foreign Mission	9.00

TOTAL \$141.49

G. T. RHODES, Chairman,
A. C. HOLMES,
W. L. AMERSON.

LETTER FROM REV. L. S. YATES

Dear Brother and Sister Payne:

Holy greetings to you both. I trust this finds you all in good condition every way.

As it isn't long until the Association will meet, thought I would write a few lines to let you know that I am still in the land of the living and I am in good spiritual condition, but my physical condi-

tion is very weak. I haven't been able to walk alone in about two years. The spirit has sent me through heat and cold to tell of the gospel and of salvations plan. It still lives and will live while the cycle of eternity rolls.

When the Association meets if I am still living I will be with you all in spirit and in prayer. Tell the people at the Association that I am still their old Brother Yates. I tried so long to reason with them of heaven and of judgment. Tell any of them that will, to write me. I would appreciate a letter or card any time from any of them as I have been a shut-in for nearly three years. Any love offering, however small it may be, will be greatly appreciated by me. Tell any one desiring to send something to send it to Mrs. J. W. Nelson, Ponce De Leon, Fla., and she will see that I get it.

With love and regards to all, I remain yours as ever in the holy bond of love.

L. S. YATES,
Florida State Hospital,
Inf. Box 9, Chattahoochee, Fla.

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 Reprevier, Comforter, Guide and Sanctifier of men.

5. **THE GOVERNMENT OF GOD.** God exercises a wise and benevolent providence over all being 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 conditions 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."

Statistical Table

CHURCHES	CLERKS AND ADDRESSES	PASTORS AND ADDRESS	Meeting Days					Total Membership	Home Mission	Foreign Mission	Orphanage	Evangelistic Work	Superannuation	Asso. Purposes	Education	Paid Pastor
				Baptized	Rec. By Letter	Lettered Out	Deceased									
Antioch	Bertha Owens, Pitts, Ga., R. 2	N. R. Sullivan, Finleyson, Ga.				1	43					\$32.10		\$3.00		\$58.
Bav Spring	I. M. Smith, Eastman, Ga., R. 5	J. F. Smith, Eastman, Ga.	2	3	1		56							5.00		
Bthlehem	J H Bridges, 317 Oak Ave. Cordele	J. B. Langford, Hawkinsville, Ga.	1	1	1	1	37							4.00		135.
Beulah Spring	Mrs. Annie Bridges, Montrose, Ga.	J. B. Langford, Hawkinsville, Ga.			2		39					4.00		5.00		125.
Christian Hill	Ernest J. Barker, Rochelle, Ga. R. 2	J. D. Payne, 240 Bailey Ave., Macon	1		2	2	139	\$5.00	\$5.00				\$5.00	8.00		216.
Double Branch	J. A. Crosby, Unadilla, Ga.	C. H. Moore, Reynolds, Ga.	4	6	2	2	170					61.80		10.00		300.
Little Bethel	Edna Fordham, Chester, Ga.	J. D. Payne, 240 Bailey Ave., Macon	6				55					10.00		6.00		122.
Liberty Chapel	H. E. Leonard, Macon, Ga., R. 7	J. D. Payne, 240 Bailey Ave., Macon		1	2		10	2.00	2.00				2.00	2.00	\$2.00	75.
Mt. Ararat	Alton Flemins, Milan, Ga., R. 3	G. W. Price, Columbus, Ga.					200					12.00		5.00		166.
New Ebenezer	Mrs. J. F. Ross, Cochran, Ga. R. 3	E. McDuffie, 240½ Bailey Ave. Macon			1	2	34	1.50				30.00		2.50	1.00	120.
Pleasant Hill	Viola Hobbs, Vienna, Ga.	C. H. Moore, Reynolds, Ga.	2	2	1		113					62.85		10.00		274.
Pine Level	W. B. Bacon, Chester, Ga.	J. F. Smith, Eastman, Ga.	5		1	1	126	2.00	2.00			75.00		9.00	2.00	155.