

MINUTES

OF THE

Twenty-Second Annual Session

OF THE

Jasper Free-Will Baptist
Association

CONVENED WITH

Pocahontas Church, Walker County, Alabama

OCTOBER 3 and 5, 1909. 08

OFFICERS.

REV. J. L. CONNER	Moderator.
ROBERT FRANKS	Clerk.
J. A. NELSON	Treasurer.

The next session of this Association will be held with Mount Olive Church, six miles northeast of Guin Station, on the Frisco Railroad, Marion County, Alabama, the same to convene on Saturday before the first Sunday in October, 1909.



FREE WILL BAPTIST
BIBLE COLLEGE

Presented by

Rev. Bill Atkinson

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MONTGOMERY, ALA.

THE BROWN PRINTING CO., STATE PRINTERS AND BINDERS

1908

PROCEEDINGS.

The 22nd annual session of the Jasper Freewill Baptist Association convened with Pocahontas Church, Walker County, Alabama, October 3rd and 5th, 1908.

The introductory sermon was preached by Rev. John L. Conner, the text used was II Timothy, iv :2: "Preach the word."

After preaching an intermission of one hour was taken for rest and refreshments, after which the ministers and delegates were requested to meet in the house, organize and proceed to business.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The Association met pursuant to the request of Rev. J. C. Elliott, as Moderator. An appropriate hymn was sung by the congregation, after which prayer was offered by Rev. J. C. Elliott as Moderator.

Rev. J. C. Elliott, who was appointed to fill the vacancy of Rev. W. A. Nelson, former Moderator, which was caused by death. We mourn the loss of our much beloved brother and moderator.

Rev. J. C. Elliott as Moderator, and Robert Franks, former Clerk, being present, took their seats and the Moderator called the body to order, and called for business, and it was presented and transacted as follows, viz.:

1. Rev. J. J. Wesley and Rev. J. L. Conner are appointed reading clerks.
2. Letters from the churches are called for, handed in and read, and contents noted as per statistical table.
3. Called for petitionary letters, and opened the doors for the reception of new churches into the body; received the following, to-wit: Mount Joy and Pleasant Grove. These churches being organized on our articles of faith, they were unanimously received and the right hand of fellowship extended to the delegates and welcomed to seats with us.
4. On motion it was agreed to permanently organize the body, which was done by electing Rev. J. L. Conner, Moderator; Bro. Robert Franks, Clerk; and Bro. J. A. Nelson, Treasurer, for the ensuing associational year.

5. Called for correspondents from sister Associations, and received the following, viz: From the State Line Association, Bro. J. C. Provins; from the North River Association, Bro. L. W. Tyra; from Bear Creek Association, Rev. J. W. Alexander; from the Morning Star Association, Rev. J. R. Hollida, Rev. J. A. Grace, J. W. Pike, P. C. Pike and J. C. Pike. These brethren were cordially received and welcomed to seats as members of the body, and the hand of Christian fellowship was extended to them, and we felt that it was good and pleasant for brethren to dwell together in love and union.

6. On motion it was agreed that the Moderator appoint all the committees, and the following were appointed, viz.:

7. On Preaching—Brethren J. W. Burleson, W. W. Nelson and J. R. Sutton, with the Deacons of this church.

8. On Documents and Order of Business—Rev. George C. Elliott, Rev. E. C. Thomas, Rev. J. J. Wesley, with the Moderator and Clerk.

9. On Sabbath Schools—Bros. W. T. Keeton, J. L. Eads and E. S. Green.

10. On Literature—Bros. K. M. Pollard, C. T. Wilson and J. A. Keeton.

11. On Deceased Ministers and Members—Bro. W. H. Franks, Rev. J. L. Conner, Rev. J. J. Wesley and Bro. W. W. Gaddis.

12. On Finance—Bros. George W. Burleson, P. R. McKaig and Henry Crow

13. On Associational Funds—Brethren J. H. Fredrick, L. N. Roemines and J. H. Whitmon.

14. Committee on Preaching reported that Rev. J. W. Alexander from the Bear Creek Association preaches tonight; Rev. E. C. Thomas, alternate; Rev. J. R. Hollada, of the Morning Star Association, preach tomorrow at 9 o'clock a. m.; Rev. J. L. Conner preach at 11 o'clock a. m., Rev. J. C. Elliott, alternate, and Rev. J. J. Wesley preach at 7 o'clock p. m.

Respectfully submitted,
J. W. BURLESON, Chairman.

On motion the report was adopted and committee discharged.

On motion the Association adjourned to meet Monday morning at 8 o'clock. Prayer by Bro. J. R. Dutton and benediction by the Moderator.

Saturday night, 7 o'clock p. m., Rev. J. W. Alexander preached to a large and well behaved audience. His text was Isaiah lili:1: "Who hath believed our report and to whom is the arm of the Lord revealed."

Order of services on Sabbath—Sunday morning, 9 o'clock, Rev. J. R. Hollada preached to a large and attentive concourse of people. His text was Thessalonians, 2nd chapter, a part of 19th verse, "For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing."

At 11 o'clock, Rev. J. L. Conner preached to a large and attentive concourse of people. His text was St. John vi:35, "I am the bread of life."

OUR LORD'S SUPPER.

After preaching the Lord's supper was administered and Christians of the different denominations partook with us. It was a free communion service and was a practical demonstration of the liberal doctrine we preach.

At 7 o'clock p. m., Rev. James J. Wesley preached to a large and well behaved audience. Text not given. This closed our Sabbath service.

MONDAY MORNING, October 5, 1908.

The Association met pursuant to adjournment. The congregation sang a hymn, after which prayer was offered by Rev. L. F. Black.

Rev. John L. Conner, the Moderator, called the body to order. The Clerk called the roll and the ministers and delegates answered to their names. The Moderator announced that a quorum was present, and that the Association was ready for business.

On motion the proceedings of Saturday were read and adopted.

On motion visiting ministers of other denominations were invited to take seats with us; none present.

Reports of committees were called for in regular order and presented as follows, viz:

ON DOCUMENTS AND ORDER OF BUSINESS.

We, your Committee on Documents and Order of Business, beg leave to report as follows: We find three petitionary letters asking for the Association, and we recommend that the body decide where it shall be held; we also recommend that we hold during this year one ministers' and deacons' meeting, and one old-time union meeting; also, that the Clerk superintend the printing of the minutes, having it done to the best advantage, and have (\$6.00) six dollars for his services; also that the Moderator have (\$5.00) five dollars for his

services out of the Associational funds; and that the various churches make contributions to the support of the State Convention.

Respectfully submitted,

REV. G. C. ELLIOTT, Chairman.

On motion the report was adopted and committee discharged.

ON DENOMINATIONAL LITERATURE.

We, your Committee on Denominational Literature, report as follows, viz: We don't know anything better than to recommend the Baptist Review, as it is our only denominational paper, and we also recommend that our Sabbath schools all use the Freewill Baptist literature in their Sunday schools, and we also recommend that a careful and prayerful study of the Holy Scriptures be observed.

Respectfully submitted,

K. M. POLLARD, Chairman.

ON SABBATH SCHOOLS.

We, your Committee on Sabbath Schools, report as follows: We find only three Sabbath schools reported to this Association and we recommend that our people co-operate with the State organization of Sabbath schools and make report of work done, amounts collected and expended, pupils enrolled, and also that the pastors encourage the work in their churches; also the study of the Bible, because the Divine Teacher said: "Search the Scriptures, for in them ye think we have eternal life; and they are they which testify of me."

Respectfully submitted,

W. T. KEETON, Chairman.

Report received, adopted, and committee discharged.

ON DECEASED MINISTERS AND MEMBERS.

We, your Committee on Deceased Ministers and Members, beg leave to report as follows: Since our last Association death has removed from the church militant on earth to the church triumphant in Heaven: From Mt. Olive, Bro. T. J. Westbrook, age about 49 years; and Sister Lou Wesley, age 23 years, 10 months and 15 days; from Friendship Church, Sister Thane Cantrell, age 61 years; from Union Hill Church, Sister Tilda Kenedy, age 42 years, and Sister Juda Cole, age 80 years; from Free Waters Church, Sister Dicy Wilson, age 45 years, 1 month and 12 days; from Liberty Church, Sister Mary Wilson, age about 62 years; from Pocahontas Church, Bro. R.

P. Good, age not known; Sister Matilda Cooner, age not given; Bro. William Gann, age 47 years.

These have all died in the triumphs of a living and abiding faith, therefore, be it

Resolved, That we thank God that such worthy Christians were permitted to live and bear fruits of righteousness among us and, in addition to these, we greatly mourn the loss of Rev. W. A. Nelson, who was the recognized father of the Jasper Freewill Baptist Association, and for 24 years he never missed a session.

Resolved, therefore, that we have sustained an irreparable loss and a grand and great man and minister, whose place and seat will be hard to fill.

Resolved, That we live up to his teachings and honor his memory with our devotion, and emulate him in his godly life.

Respectfully submitted,

W. H. FRANKS, Chairman.

On motion the report was adopted and the committee discharged.

ON ASSOCIATIONAL FUNDS.

We, your Committee on Associational Funds, report as follows, viz: Paid in from the various churches of the Association the following amounts: Mount Olive Church, \$1.50; Mt. Pleasant, nothing; Oak Grove, \$1.00; New Oak Grove, \$1.25; Friendship, nothing; Gum Springs, \$1.00; Union Chapel, nothing; Union Hill, nothing; Freewaters, \$1.00; Liberty, nothing; Fair View, nothing; Pleasant Ridge, \$3.50; New Mt. Joy, nothing; Shady Grove, nothing; Brilliant, 75 cents; Pearce's Chapel, nothing; Pocahontas, \$1.00; Union Grove, nothing; New Hope, \$1.50; Mount Joy, \$1.13; Pleasant Grove, 50 cents.

Respectfully submitted,

J. H. FREDRICK, Chairman.

On motion the report was adopted and the committee discharged.

ON FINANCE.

We, your Committee on Finance, reports as follows, viz.: We find paid in from the various churches as a mintue fund, \$21.30; and private contributions, \$3.91; total amount paid in, \$25.21.

Respectfully submitted,

J. W. BURLESON, Chairman.

On motion the report was adopted and the Committee discharged.

On motion that the Finance Committee pay the minute funds to the Clerk to pay for the printing of the minutes.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

The amount of Associational funds left in my hands on October 7, 1907, was \$95.07; interest on same was \$7.60; received from the various churches, \$14.13; total amount, October 5, 1908, is \$116.80.

On October 5, 1908, paid \$5.00. to the widow of our deceased brother, Rev. W. A. Nelson, as our late Moderator. On same date paid Rev. J. C. Elliott, as Moderator, \$5.00. Also, on same date, paid Rev. R. A. Nix \$25.00. All by order of the Association; which leaves a balance in my hands on October 5, 1908, of \$81.80.

Respectfully submitted,

J. A. NELSON, Treasurer.

On motion the report was adopted.

On motion it was agreed and ordered that our Treasurer loan the money out at 8 per cent interest, and take a note or notes with two good securities, the same to be paid in on October 1, 1909.

On motion that the place of holding the State Convention be changed from Pocahontas Church, and that it convene with Mount Olive Church, and that it convene on Thursday, before the second Sunday in November, 1909.

On motion that we adjourn for refreshments, and to meet at 1 o'clock p. m. Prayer by Brother W. W. Gaddis.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The Association met pursuant to adjournment. The congregation sang a hymn and prayer was offered by Bro. J. R. Dutton. The Moderator called the body to order. Calling of the roll was omitted. The Clerk announced that there was a quorum present. The Moderator called for unfinished business.

ON MINISTERIAL CHARACTER.

We, your Standing Committee on Ministerial Character, towit: W. T. Keeton, C. W. Bell, A. J. Ingle, J. W. Burleson and J. T. Tyra, report as follows, viz: We find all our ministers in good standing so far as we know, and we urge all our ministers to be at each session of the Association as much as possible.

Respectfully submitted,

W. T. KEETON, Chairman.

On motion the report is received and adopted.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS.

Resolved 1. That any minister of this Association who is found guilty of circulating false reports by pen or otherwise, on a brother minister, which is liable to injure his usefulness and destroy his influence, shall be deemed guilty of a disciplinary offense, and after discipline has been used, if he does not show signs of penitence and reformation, he shall be excommunicated from the Association, and published in our denominational paper.

2. On motion, it is still agreed to retain a financial system as we see the great need of such: And we earnestly recommend that each member that belongs to the Jasper Freewill Baptist Association pay annually fifty cents, this is in connection with the minute funds; and we earnestly urge and ask all of our ministers to use their best efforts in urging the collection of these funds; and it is further understood that we elect a Treasurer to keep a true record of all the funds that are paid in; and also, how the same are paid out. These funds are to be disposed of by the Association, through the Moderator and Clerk, being empowered by the body. Said money is to be used for no other purpose than the building up of the Jasper Freewill Baptist Association. Such as aiding destitute and disabled ministers, poor widows and orphans.

3. Be it resolved, that members shall not hold their letters out of the church over twelve months after date, and they are still under the jurisdiction of the church to which they belonged.

4. Be it resolved, that any minister or ministers of the Jasper Freewill Baptist Association of Alabama, who desires to set forth the full functions of the Gospel the same shall be made known to the annual Association through a recommendation from the church or churches to which they belong; and if, on examination, they shall be found worthy, the Association may ordain them; but all ordinations must be done at the annual Associations.

5. On motion, it is agreed that Rev. J. J. Wesley be and he is hereby appointed to write a Circular Letter to be appended to the minutes of 1909, choosing his own subject.

6. On motion, it is agreed that each minister report annually the amount of money he has received; the number of miles traveled; the number of sermons preached; the number of public prayers offered; the number of marriage ceremonies performed; the number of visits made to the sick and burial services attended during the associational year.

7 On motion, the following Preamble and Resolutions was presented, viz: Whereas, the Jasper Association is without proper representation with her sister Associations, and feeling the great need of the spirit of union, which is essential to the furtherance of the cause of Christ, that we elect corresponding delegates, and the following are elected, viz.:

Bear Creek Association—Rev. J. C. Elliott, J. R. Dutton and Rev. L. F. Black.

Little Brown's Creek Association—W. T. Keeton, W. B. Dickinson and F. D. Hartmor.

State Line Association—W. A. Wilson, W. A. Cantrell and C. T. Wilson.

Morning Star Association—Joseph Atkins.

Vernon Association—Rev. R. C. Flippo and J. A. Nelson.

8. On motion that the ministers and deacons' meeting convene with Union Chapel Church, Marion County, Ala., and that it convene Saturday before the first Sunday in August, 1909. Rev. J. C. Elliott preach the introductory sermon; Rev. J. J. Wesley, alternate.

9. On motion the Old-Time Union Meeting convene with Union Hill Church, Marion County, Ala., and that it convene Saturday before the fourth Sunday in July, 1909. Rev. James J. Wesley to preach the introductory sermon; Rev. J. L. Conner, alternate.

10. On motion it is agreed that the next session of this association be held with Mount Olive Church, six miles northeast of Guin Station, on the Frisco railroad, Marion County, Ala., the same to convene on Saturday before the first Sunday in October, 1909.

On motion, Rev. E. C. Thomas preach the introductory sermon; Rev. L. F. Black, alternate.

11. On motion it is agreed that the Articles of Faith, Constitution and Rules of Decorum be appended to the minutes.

12. On motion, it is agreed that the clerk superintend the printing of the minutes and that he have the work done to the best advantage; and it is further agreed that the publisher be instructed to send them to the clerks of the churches according to their contributions, and that the clerk be allowed six dollars for his services.

13. On motion be it resolved, That this Jasper Freewill Baptist Association, assembled at Pocahontas Church, Walker County, Ala., tender our thanks to the church and surrounding community, especially the good sisters for their hospitality, and to the young men and young ladies for their good behavior, and the officers are es-

pecially thanked for the faithful manner in which they have discharged their duties. Respectfully submitted,

JAMES J. WESLEY.

14. On motion the Association adjourned to meet at the time and place above named. Prayer by Rev. J. R. Hollady. Closing services conducted by the Moderator, with feeling and appropriate remarks. A hymn was sang and the parting hand was taken amid tears and joy.

REV. JOHN L. CONNER, Moderator.

ROBERT FRANKS, Clerk.

ORDAINED MINISTERS AND THEIR POSTOFFICES.

Rev. J. L. Conner, Twin, Ala.

Rev. M. R. Martin, Brilliant, Ala.

Rev. T. M. Canup, Dennis R. F. D. No. 1, Itabomba County, Miss.

Rev. J. C. Elliott, Brilliant, Marion County, Ala.

Rev. J. E. Cochran, Pearces Mills, Marion County, Ala.

Rev. J. J. Wesley, Guin R. F. D. No. 3, Marion County, Ala.

Rev. W. H. Ingram, Brilliant, Marion County, Ala.

Rev. W. B. Benson, Carbon Hill, Walker County, Ala.

Rev. W. M. Buzbee, Nauvoo, Walker County, Ala.

Rev. H. B. Fowler, Galloway, Walker County, Ala.

Rev. E. C. Thomas, Haleys, Walker County, Ala.

Rev. R. A. Nix, Travis, Franklin County, Ala.

Rev. J. W. Flippo, Pearces Mills, Marion County, Ala.

Rev. S. B. Ramsey, Pleasant Site, Franklin County, Ala.

Rev. R. C. Flippo, Twin, Marion County, Ala.

Rev. L. F. Black, Adamsville, Walker County, Ala.

MINISTERS' REPORTS.

Since our last Association, I have preached 35 sermons; public prayers offered, 81; received into the church, 14 members; baptized 6, and organized one church; traveled 890 miles; sick room visits, 15; married one couple; delivered 10 exhortations and received for my services \$14.00.

Respectfully submitted,

REV. E. C. THOMAS.

RULES OF DECORUM.

Article 1. The Association shall be called to order by the Moderator who presided at the last session; former Clerk also officiating until the body is fully organized.

Art. 2. The Association shall be opened and closed with singing and prayer.

Art. 3. The Moderator and Clerk shall be chosen by ballot at each session of the Association. A majority of votes by the delegates present elects.

Art. 4. The names of delegates from the different churches shall be enrolled and called as often as necessary during the session.

Art. 5. A majority of delegates present shall rule in all cases except the reception of members, then it shall be unanimous.

Art. 6. The Moderator shall not be entitled to vote, except in case of a tie, and then he shall give the deciding vote. He shall also speak on any question after others have spoken, provided he appoint some one to the chair while he is speaking.

Art. 7. Only one person shall speak at the same time, and he shall arise and address the Moderator, and after recognition by the Moderator, proceed.

Art. 8. No brother shall be interrupted while speaking, unless he depart from the subject under discussion, or use words of personal reflection.

Art. 9. No person shall be allowed to speak more than twice on the same subject without leave of the Association, nor more than fifteen minutes at a time.

Art. 10. No person shall laugh or talk during the time the debates are going on.

Art. 11. No member shall absent himself from the Association without leave of the Moderator.

CONSTITUTION

Article 1. This Association shall be known as the Jasper Freewill Baptist Association of Alabama, and being composed of ministers and delegates from the different churches forming the same, each church being entitled to three delegates.

Art. 2. This body shall be considered an advisory council.

Art. 3. All questions of doctrine and matters of general interest shall be decided by a two thirds vote of the Association, and the decision shall be final.

Art. 4. The officers of this Association shall be a Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer, which shall be chosen by a majority vote at each session of the Association.

Art. 5. The Association shall meet annually at such time and place as may be agreed upon by a previous annual session and shall not adjourn finally, until all the business is transacted.

Art. 6. Churches wishing to become members of this Association must adopt its Articles of Faith and conform to its usages.

Art. 7. We agree as churches of this Association to use our best influence to promote the interest of all moral and benevolent institutions, such as the Temperance Cause, Sunday Schools, Missionary Work, etc.

Art. 8. No member of this Association shall be eligible to the office of Moderator more than two successive sessions, unless no other member be competent to act in that capacity.

Art. 9. Any church of this Association failing to be represented for two years in succession, the same shall be dropped from our minutes.

ARTICLES OF FAITH.

OF GOD—Article 1. We believe there is one, and but one living and true God. Who is in personality, the Father, the Son and Holy Ghost. Equal and harmonious in every Divine perfection.

OF THE HOLY SCRIPTURES—Art. 2. We believe that God is the Author of the Holy Bible, and that its teachings constitute the only infallible doctrine for the government of his church.

OF ORIGINAL APOSTASY—Art. 3. We believe that Adam was created holy; but by voluntary transgression fell into depravity, and consequently involved his posterity in sin.

OF FREE GRACE—Art. 4. We believe that the Grace of God comprehends all spiritual blessings. That the Gospel is the power of God unto salvation. That the Holy Spirit not only reproves the world of sin, but is the means whereby sinners are converted, regenerated and saved.

OF CHRISTIAN FAITH—Art. 5. We believe that Christian Faith is belief in Jesus Christ as the Son of God and Redeemer of the world, and we believe in the inspiration of the Holy Scriptures. That "Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God."

OF REPENTANCE—Art. 6. We believe that Repentance is sorrow for sin, and the kind of sorrow which constitutes godly repentance must be preceded by effectual conviction for sin.

OF FREE AGENCY—Art. 7. We believe that the human will is free, and that men have ability to accept or reject the conditions of salvation as they are revealed in the Holy Scriptures.

OF PERSEVERANCE—Art. 8. We do not believe under the Gospel dispensation that any soul is elected to eternal life unconditionally; but those who by faith persevere to the end will be saved. That it is possible for men who have been converted, to "Make shipwreck of the Faith," turn again to sin and be finally lost!

OF GOOD WORK—Art. 9. We believe that good work is the result of Faith, and not of necessity. That those who have Faith will do works of righteousness; while those have no Faith can not do anything pleasing or acceptable unto God.

OF CHRISTIAN BAPTISM—Art. 10. We believe that Christian Baptism is the immersion in water of a believer in the names of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost. That baptism cannot be Scripturally administered without Faith in the subject who receives it.

OF THE LORD'S SUPPER—Art. 11. We believe the Supper was instituted by our Savior as a commemorative ordinance. That the bread and wine represent his body and blood. That it was instituted for Christians and that all Christians should unite in observing that sacred service, regardless of names or denominational distinctions.

OF THE SOUL—Art. 12. We believe that man is a living soul. That the body will die, but that the soul is immortal. That death is the separation of the mortal and immortal parts of human beings.

OF THE RESURRECTION—Art. 13. We believe in the Resurrection of the dead. When the resurrection shall take place the soul

and body will reunite and form an immortal being. That the righteous will be received into a state of everlasting happiness, to reign with God forever and ever. But the wicked will be bound hand and foot and be cast into outer darkness. "The wicked are driven away in their wickedness, but the righteous have hope in their death."

STATISTICAL TABLE FOR 1908.

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