

MINUTES

OF THE

**Forty-Ninth Session of the Liberty
Association**

OF THE

**UNITED FREE-WILL BAPTIST CHURCH
OF CHRIST**

HELD WITH

**Range Church, Range, Alabama,
October 7th and 8th, 1938**

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OFFICERS

W. H. Bailey, Moderator

K. Rainer, Assistant Moderator

R. T. Coleman, Clerk and Treasurer

S. J. Lewis and R. L. Jerkins, Associational Deacons

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

R. J. Foster, J. W. Byrd, L. J. Langford, S. J. Lewis and
C. L. Baggett

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The next session of the Association will be held with Christian Home
Church at McDavid, Fla., to begin on Friday before the
Second Sunday in October, 1939, at 10 o'clock a. m.

PROCEEDINGS

FRIDAY MORNING

Range Church, Range, Alabama. The body was called to order by Rev. W. H. Bailey, the Moderator. The former Moderator was re-elected. Bro. R. T. Coleman was re-elected clerk; Bro. K. Raner, assistant moderator; Bro. K. L. Rigby and Bro. R. L. Jerkins, associational deacons.

Then we took the right hand of fellowship and declared the body ready for business.

MINISTERS PRESENT

W. H. Bailey	-----	Frisco City, Ala.
N. G. Baggett	-----	Brewton, Ala.
R. T. Coleman	-----	Perdido, Ala.
W. R. Thompson	-----	Bay Springs, Fla.
L. M. Thomley	-----	Uriah, Ala.
J. S. Odom	-----	Atmore, Ala.
W. S. Thomley	-----	Robertsdale, Ala.
J. A. Slag	-----	Atmore, Ala.
C. F. Sowell	-----	Clanton, Ala.
T. D. Johnson	-----	Range, Ala.

MINISTERS ABSENT

R. P. Watts	-----	Bluff Springs, Fla.
A. W. Wilson	-----	Lottie, Ala.
J. S. McDuffie	-----	R. F. D. 3, Brewton, Ala.
G. W. Murphy	-----	Uriah, Ala.
R. J. Money	-----	Castleberry, Ala.
Lee Hanks	-----	Birmingham, Ala.

VISITING MINISTERS

K. Raner	-----	Milton, Fla.
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CHURCHES AND DELEGATES PRESENT

Range	-----	R. L. Jerkins, S. J. Lewis
Midway	-----	N. G. Baggett
Union Grove	-----	A. H. Shipp, W. D. Benifield, F. R. Shipp
Pine Grove	-----	L. M. Bone, T. S. Coleman
Shilo	-----	W. E. Franklin, K. L. Rigby
Oak Grove	-----	D. S. Cane
Friendship	-----	Lyda Byrd
Christian Home	-----	Verniah Brown
Semira Springs	-----	A. O. Allen, J. D. Peacox
Canaan	-----	W. B. Grissett, J. C. Hall

FRIDAY EVENING

The body met at 1:30 o'clock and was called to order by W. H. Bailey by reading a part of the 25th Chapter of Matthew. Prayer by W. S. Thomley.

READING CLERK

J. S. Odom

CALL FOR CHURCH LETTERS

Range church, letter was read and adopted, paid \$2.50.
Midway church, letter was read and adopted, paid \$1.00.
Union Grove church, letter was read and adopted, paid \$4.00.
Pine Grove church, letter was read and adopted, paid \$3.09.
Shilo church, letter was read and adopted, paid \$4.00.
Semira Springs church, letter read and adopted. Paid \$2.00.
Oak Grove church, letter read and adopted. Paid \$2.00.
Friendship church, letter read and adopted. Paid \$1.25.
Christian Home church, letter was read and adopted. Paid \$1.75.
Canaan church, letter was read and adopted. Paid \$1.45.

SATURDAY MORNING—8 O'CLOCK

COMMITTEE ON PREACHING

L. B. Bone, S. J. Lewis. We, your committee appoint K. Raner and W. S. Thomley to preach Friday night. J. A. Slay and W. H. Bailey preached Saturday at 11 o'clock. N. G. Baggett and R. T. Coleman preached at night. Committee discharged.

COMMITTEE ON STANDING OF MINISTERS

W. E. Franklin and J. C. Chavers. We find several preachers not doing anything. Each church should investigate this matter with their preacher. Committee discharged.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

T. S. Coleman, A. O. Allen. We find \$19.91 in the treasury. We ask the bodies to take up collection to finance amount to \$25.00. Committee Discharged.

COMMITTEE ON OBITUARIES

Find at Pine Grove, one death, Bro. John Allen, aged 96. Oak Grove, one death, Sister Martha Cain, aged 72. One death at Semira Springs, Curtis Apleton, aged 19. One death at Christian Home, Mosley Sheffield.

We regret to part with those we love and hate to say goodbye, but trust to meet them above.

W. R. Thompson, chairman. Committee discharged.

COMMITTEE ON SUGGESTIONS

We suggest that the 5th Sunday meeting be held at Canaan church, Brewton, Ala., Route 4, the 5th Sunday in July, 1939, and the association be held with Christian Home church, McDavid, Florida.

Each church to have a Sabbath school and prayer meeting and help support their pastor, and each church commune as often as 4 times a year if they feel it necessary.

W. S. Thomley, J. S. Odom, C. F. Sowell. Committee discharged.

HOME MISSIONS

We find that Union Grove church paid \$134.79.
We find that Christian Home church paid \$150.00.
We find that Semira Springs paid \$58.51.

Committee discharged.

SATURDAY EVENING—1 P. M.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

The body authorized Bro. W. H. Bailey to use \$5.00 to find the old deeds to the church property and to sell the Mount Willing church and turn the money over to the association treasurer.

We offer a note of thanks to the good people of this community for their hospitality with us while we were with them.

W. S. Thomley will preach the next introduction sermon at the association.

We adjourned to meet with Christian Home church, McDavid, Florida, Friday before the second Sunday in October at 10 o'clock, 1939.

W. H. BAILEY, Moderator.
R. T. COLEMAN, Clerk.

ARTICLES OF FAITH

1. As to God—One God and Father of all. Eph. 4:6.
2. As to Scriptures—All Scripture is given by inspiration of God. 2nd Tim. 3:16.
3. As to Freedom of Will—"Ye will not come unto Me." John 5:40. "Whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely." Rev. 22:17.
4. As to Condition of Salvation—He (Christ) died for all. 2nd Cor. 5:15. "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." Rom. 10:13. "For in due season we shall reap if we faint not." Gal. 6:9. "Be thou faithful unto death and I will give thee a crown of life." Rev. 2:10.
5. As to Election—"God is no respecter of persons, but in every nation he that feareth Him and worketh righteousness is accepted with Him." Acts 10:34-35.
6. As to Grace—"For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men." Titus 2:11. "For by grace are ye saved through faith." Eph. 2:8.
7. As to Faith—"Justified by faith." Rom. 5:1. "This is the victory which overcometh the world, even our faith." 1st John 5:4.
8. As to Works—"Faith without works is dead." James 2:6.

"God hath before ordained that we should walk in them." Eph. 2:10.

9. As to Baptism—"And they went down both into the water, and when they were come up out of the water." Acts 8:39. "We are buried with Him by baptism unto death." Rom. 6:4.

10. As to Subject to Baptism—"If thou believest with all thine heart thou mayest." Acts 8:27. "So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God." Rom. 14:12.

11. As to Oneness of the Christian Church—"Is Christ divided?" 1 Cor. 1:13, "I am the Vine, ye are the branches." John 15:5. "That they may be one as we are." John 17:11-21. "There is one body and one spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling." Eph. 4:4.

12. As to Communion—"This do in remembrance of Me." Luke 22:19. "But let a man examine himself and so let him eat the bread and drink of the cup." 1 Cor. 11:28. "Let no man, therefore, judge you." Col. 2:16.

13. As to the Resurrection—"For the hour cometh in which all that are in the grave shall hear His voice and shall come forth." John 5:28. "For the trumpet shall sound and the dead shall be raised incorruptible and we shall be changed." 1 Cor. 15:52.

14. As to the Judgment, Reward and Punishment—"For we shall all stand before the Judgment seat of Christ." Rom. 14:10. "And these shall go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into life eternal." Matt. 25:46.

15. As to Feet Washing—"Ye also ought to wash one another's feet." John 13:14. "For I have given you an example." John 13:15. "Verily, verily, I say unto you, the servant is not greater than his lord." John 13:16. "If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them." John 13:17. "Because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example." 1 Peter 2:21.

CHURCH COVENANT

In order to have more perfect and free Christian love and fellowship for each other, and to advance the cause of our Lord, and Master, We do hereby agree and covenant, by the help of God, our Father, and aided by the Holy Spirit, to keep the ordinances, precepts and examples, as laid down in the New Testament of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

AS TO THE RULES—ARTICLE 1.

Section 1. When a sufficient number of members are ready for organization the articles of faith and church covenant shall be read and if adopted the right hand of fellowship shall be extended, and after prayer they shall proceed to the election of officers, after which they shall be declared organized and ready for business.

Section 2. No church shall be organized with less than three male members, nor within six miles of another church of the same faith, unless in towns or cities.

Section 3. The officers of a church shall be a pastor, one or more deacons, and a clerk and treasurer, and not less than three trustees.

Section 4. The church shall call their pastor at the next conference preceeding the last regular conference, in the Associational year, unless in case of a vacancy; in such case they may call a conference for that purpose.

Section 5. Any church, in case of necessity, may call a conference and elect one of their members, or a visiting minister, as moderator.

Section 6. The church may hold a conference as often as it deems it necessary.

Section 7. It is suggested that the church commune and wash the members' feet as often as convenient, and it shall not be postponed on account of disobedient members.

Section 8. The church shall not try a member without a hearing unless said member refuses to attend the conference, when notified to do so.

Sec. 9. The church may grant a license to any member in good standing to preach the gospel if it deems him worthy and competent, and said license shall be good as long as he is an advantage to the cause, but shall be ordained only by the recommendation or order of the church.

Section 10. When ministers or deacons are to be ordained the church shall hold a presbytery or instruct their pastor to do so for that purpose. And said presbytery shall be composed of two ministers or one minister and two deacons.

Section 11. Deacons shall not be ordained until they are tried.

Section 12. Each minister shall be a member of some live church and in good standing with the church.

Section 13. It shall be the duty of every member, male and female, to attend each conference meeting if they can, for on that day the pastor is expected to instruct the church in a spiritual manner by giving plain and pointed lessons on doctrine and discipline, and the rule of holy living and the church members' duties.

Section 14. No member shall give or attend card parties, or attend other places of worldly amusement, or allow such things to be held in their homes, and drunkenness is strictly forbidden.

ARTICLE 2.

Section 1. The pastor shall attend his church monthly unless providentially hindered, and shall sit as moderator and see that justice is done, but may appoint some suitable brother to sit in his stead when he thinks proper for the cause. He shall also hold a protracted meeting with his church once a year.

Section 2. The deacon shall be elected by the church and shall hold office at the direction of the church. They shall watch over the flock, advise the unruly members and report such to the church in conference, when necessary, and may administer the ordinance of baptism; they shall make all necessary arrangements for the communion; look into the needs of the church, and the support of the pastor; they shall take notice of such members as refuse or neglect to partake of the Lord's Supper and wash each other's feet, and endeavor to ascertain the cause, that the same may be laid before the church in conference.

Section 3. The clerk shall be elected by the church and shall

hold office at the discretion of the church; he shall keep a record of the members and minutes of the business transactions of the church, and shall read the same at the conference as often as the church may demand, and shall turn all books and papers over to his successor in office.

Section 4. The treasurer shall be elected by the church, shall hold office at the will of the church, shall hold all monies paid into the church for general expenses, and pay out the same only on an order from the church, in conference, and shall turn over all money and papers to his successor.

Section 5. The trustees shall be elected by the church, and shall hold office for two years and until their successors are elected, unless removed for cause; they have charge of the deeds and all other church property, and shall look after the repairs of the church, but they cannot sell or otherwise dispose of the church property without an order from the church in conference.

Section 6. No one shall be received in the church unless spiritually baptised, by an ordained baptiser.

Section 7. Members must pay their debts contracted by them, or make satisfactory arrangements with their creditors, and they shall help pay their pastors.

Section 8. We recommend that each church elect a Home Mission Treasurer and all money collected for Home Missions be retained in the church and paid out only by order of the church.

ORDER OF CONFERENCE

1. Invite visiting brethren to sit with us.
2. Opportunity for members.
3. Reading of the minutes of last conference.
4. Church reports of acknowledgements.
5. Deacons' reports.
6. Unfinished business.
7. Miscellaneous business.
8. Motion to adjourn.

STATISTICAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1938

Of The Liberty Association

CHURCHES	PASTORS	CLERKS	POSTOFFICE	Time of Meeting	Paid Pastor	Present Member-ship	Amt. for Asso. Purposes
Range -----	R. T. Coleman--	R. L. Jerkins---	Range, Ala. ----	2S	\$ 7.50	67	\$2.50
Shilo -----	Lee Hanks ----	R. P. Amerson--	Atmore, Ala ---	1S	35.16	84	4.00
Christian Home --	W. S. Thomley--	Maggie Dockins-	McDavid, Fla. --	4S	7.25	27	1.71
Midway -----	N. G. Baggett--	C. L. Baggett---	Brewton, Ala. --	2S	-----	11	1.00
Semira Springs ---	G. W. Murphy--	A. O. Allen----	Uriah, Ala. ----	4S	11.55	150	2.00
Union Grove -----	W. H. Bailey---	Ester Shipp ----	Castleberry, Ala.	2S	32.00	63	4.00
Friendship -----	W. S. Thomley--	Rosie Walston --	Pollard, Ala. ---	2S	10.58	13	1.25
Pine Grove -----	W. S. Thomley--	L. R. Coleman--	Predido, Ala. --	3S	18.81	49	3.00
Canaan -----	N. G. Baggett--	Thelma Barnett	Brewton, Ala. --	3S	-----	36	1.45
Oak Grove -----	J. W. Murphy--	V. L. Cooper---	Brewton, Ala. --	3S	-----	126	2.00