

MINUTES

OF THE

1

Fifth-Sixth Session of the Liberty Association

OF THE

UNITED FREE-WILL BAPTIST CHURCH OF CHRIST

HELD WITH

**PILGRIMS REST CHURCH
MOLINO, FLORIDA**

— — —
October 11, 12, 13, 1945
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OFFICERS

W. S. Thomley, Moderator Thomas Givens, Assistant Moderator

W. T. Shipp, Clerk and Treasurer

J. W. Norris and J. T. Flemming, Associational Deacons

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Louis Langford, Walter Amerson, A. O. Allen, R. L. Jerkins, Lee Brown

ORDAINING COUNSEL

W. S. Thomley, L. M. Thomley, Thomas Givens, R. T. Coleman

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The next session of the Association will be held with Oak Grove Church West of Castleberry, Ala., to begin on Thursday before the Second Sunday in October, 1946, at 10:00 o'clock A. M.

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CALL FOR PREACHERS REPORTS

To the Honorable body of the United Free-will Baptist Church of Christ:

I beg to report my years work as follows: No. of sermons preached 105; No. of members received 59; Received by baptism 19; By letter and confession of faith 40; Miles traveled 7349; Money received \$382.03; Funerals preached 2; Couples married 0; Churches organized 1. Paid out \$83.71.

W. S. Thomley.

To the Honorable body of the United Free-will Baptist Church of Christ:

I beg to report my years work as follows: No. of sermons preached 106; No. of members received 49; Received by baptism 34; By letter and confession of faith 15; Miles traveled 6426; Money received \$381.80; Funerals preached none; Couples married none; Churches organized none.

T. J. Buck.

To the Honorable body of the United Free-will Baptist Church of Christ:

I beg to report my years work as follows: No. of sermons preached 114; No. of members received 88; Received by baptism 63; By letter and confession of faith 23; Miles traveled 3028; Money received \$336.46; Funerals preached none; Couples married none; Churches organized one.

A. V. Mitchell, Rt. 3, Box 297-A, Miami, Fla.

To the Honorable body of the United Free-will Baptist Church of Christ:

I beg to report my years work as follows: No. of sermons preached 135; No. of members received 3; Received by baptism none; By letter and confession of faith 3; Miles traveled 8500; Money received \$400.00/100 about that; Funerals preached none; Couples married none; Churches organized none.

Thomas E. Givens.

To the Honorable body of the United Free-will Baptist Church of Christ:

I beg to report my years work as follows: No. of sermons preached 75; No. of members received none; Received by baptism none; By letter and confession of faith none; Miles traveled unknown; Money received \$5.00; Funerals preached none; Couples married none; Churches organized none.

J. S. McDuffie.

To the Honorable body of the United Free-will Baptist Church of Christ:

I beg to report my years work as follows: No. of sermons preached approximately 62; No. of members received 38; Received by baptism 36; By letter and confession of faith 2; Miles traveled A. P. 2,919; Money received \$187.69; Funerals preached 1; Couples married none; Churches organized none.

W. M. (Sam) Patrick

To the Honorable body of the United Free-will Baptist Church of Christ:

I beg to report my years work as follows: No. of sermons preached 25; No. of members received none; Received by baptism none; By letter and confession of faith none; Miles traveled 550; Money received \$15.50; Funerals preached none; Couples married none; Churches organized none.

J. A. Slay.

To the Honorable body of the United Free-will Baptist Church of Christ:

I beg to report my years work as follows: No. of sermons preached unknown; No. of members received none; Received by baptism none; By letter and confession of faith none; Miles traveled unknown; Money received

\$44.75; Funerals preached 3; Couples married 3; Churches organized none. Expense \$16.62.

Z. T. Long.

To the Honorable body of the United Free-will Baptist Church of Christ:

I beg to report my years work as follows: No. of sermons preached 40; No. of members received none; Received by baptism none; By letter and confession of faith none; Miles traveled 330; Money received \$6.80; Funerals preached none; Couples married none; Churches organized none.

J. D. McDuffie.

To the Honorable body of the United Free-will Baptist Church of Christ:

I beg to report my years work as follows: No. of sermons preached 56; No. of members received 8; Received by baptism 4; By letter and confession of faith 4; Miles traveled 596; Money received \$322.08; Funerals preached 2; Couples married none; Churches organized none.

L. M. Thomley.

To the Honorable body of the United Free-will Baptist Church of Christ:

I beg to report my years work as follows: No. of sermons preached 91; No. of members received 21; Received by baptism 5; By letter and confession of faith 16; Miles traveled 5717; Money received \$206.17; Funerals preached none; Couples married none; Churches organized 1.

E. E. Brooks.

To the Honorable body of the United Free-will Baptist Church of Christ:

I beg to report my years work as follows: No. of sermons preached 75; No. of members received 3; Received by baptism; By letter and confession of faith 1; Miles traveled 2,460; Money received \$325.40; Funerals preached 3; Couples 4; Churches organized.

R. T. Coleman.

There were letters from Rev. W. H. Bailey and Rev. F. T. Lloyd stating the reason they couldn't come to the Association. Both were accepted.

We adjourned until 2:00 o'clock Friday evening.

FRIDAY EVENING SESSION

After the choir sang many good hymns the moderator read Isaiah 61. Rev. David McDuffie led us in prayer.

The body was declared ready for business.

The committees were appointed.

CALL FOR LADIES' AUXILIARY REPORTS

There were two auxiliaries in the Association.

Ladies Auxiliary of Semira Springs was organized February 10, 1945 with 8 members. Report of years work:

Auxiliary's expenses	\$ 2.75
Paid to Orphans' Home	10.00
Commodity to Needy	31.33

Total \$44.08

Balance in treasury 5.00

The report was adopted.

Ladies' Auxiliary of Union Grove Church was organized in November, 1944

Counsel to ordain Bro. Robert Waters. This was carried out.

It was moved and seconded that Rev. W. S. Thomley be sent out as a district Evangelist and Rev. A. V. Mitchell as a traveling Evangelist. It was readopted that each pastor take up a collection at his church once a month for the district evangelist.

Bro. Sam Patrick was appointed to represent us at the State Association. He was given \$15.00 to help pay his expenses and \$10.00 as fees for minutes.

Rev. W. S. Thomley was appointed to investigate Mitchell's Chapel and its property.

It was moved and seconded to give the clerk \$20.00 for his work.

There was a collection taken up for the district evangelist, which amounted to \$25.51.

Bro. Thomas Givens was appointed to preach the introductory sermon at the next Association.

We offered a standing vote of thanks to the people of this community for their kind hospitality shown us during our stay here.

Having finished all business we adjourned until next year to meet with Shilo church at Bratt, Fla., on Thursday before the Second Sunday in October, 1946.

We take the parting hand.

W. S. Thomley, Moderator
Wilbur Shipp, 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 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 over faith." 1st John 5:4.
8. As to Works—"Faith without works is dead." James 2:20. "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 8:38-39. "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 8:37. "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 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 5:28-29. "For the trumpet shall sound and the dead shall be raised incorruptible and we shall be changed." 1 Cor. 15:52.

14. As to 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 conference, when notified to do so.

Section 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 deacons are to be ordained the church shall call 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 or 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 15. No minister or preacher, of any other denomination shall be allowed to preach or hold a revival in any of our churches, unless the pastor of the church, or the Evangelist be present.

Section 16. Any minister, except those on honor roll, who do not report in person or by letter, to the association's name will be left out of the minute.

Section 17. All of our ministers preach tithing and encourage the same in their churches.

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 deacons 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 the successor in office.

Section 4. 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 5. No one shall be received in the church unless spiritually baptized, by an ordained baptizer.

Section 6. Members must pay their debts contracted by them, or make satisfactory arrangements with their creditors, and they shall help pay their pastors.

Section 7. 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 acknowledgement.
5. Deacons reports
6. Unfinished business.
7. Miscellaneous business.
8. Motion to adjourn.

STATISTICAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1945

OF THE LIBERTY ASSOCIATION

CHURCHES	PASTORS	CLERKS	POSTOFFICES	Time of Meeting	Paid Pastor	Present Membership	No. Members Received	Amt. for Asso'n Purposes
Shilo	E. E. Brooks	R. P. Amerson	Bratt, Fla.	1- S	128.00	82	5	5.15
Antioch	R. T. Coleman	J. C. Hollingsworth	Nokomis, Ala.	1- S	15.00	30	0	5.00
Christian Home	L. M. Thomley	Emma Lee	McDavid, Fla.	3- S	237.55	50	5	11.05
Ewins Chapel	E. E. Brooks	George Welch	Atmore, Ala.	4- S	33.60	23	1	2.50
Range	R. T. Coleman	W. T. Lewis	Range, Ala.	4- S	77.00	30	0	5.00
Friendship	E. E. Brooks	Rosa Walston	Brewton, Ala.	2- S	33.32	16	4	2.50
Canaan	R. T. Coleman	Marvin Lizenby	Brewton, Ala.	3- S	174.30	53	1	5.55
Midway	W. M. (Sam) Patrick	Mrs. J. L. Burch	Brewton, Ala.	4- S	64.91	45	14	5.40
Semira Springs	T. J. Buck	A. O. Allen	Uriah, Ala.	4- S	113.70	105	22	7.00
Pine Grove	Thomas Givens	Doris Milstead	Perdido, Ala.	2- S	102.65	49	0	5.00
Oak Grove	W. M. (Sam) Patrick	Otha Morris	Castleberry, Ala.	1, 2, 3- S	94.83	127	24	5.00
Pilgrim Rest	L. M. Thomely	Lena Mae Ward	Molina, Fla.	2-4S	83.53	35	5	5.60
1st F. W. B. Church of Foley	I. C. Thomley	Inez Morris	Foley, Ala.	1- S	30.00	20	2	5.00
1st F. W. B. Church of Miami	James Herne	Ruby Mitchell	Miami, Fla.	All	375.88	19	19	7.00
Perdue Hill	E. E. Brooks and T. F. Lloyd	Emmer Dotson	Perdue Hill, Ala.	1-3S		16		2.50
Union Grove	T. J. Buck	Esther Shipp	Castleberry, Ala.	2- S	223.10	101	24	12.00