

MINUTES

OF THE
FIFTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE
LIBERTY ASSOCIATION

OF
FREE WILL BAPTIST

HELD AT

Pleasant Grove Church, Ashville, Ala., R1,
beginning on Friday night, September 23, 1938.

OFFICERS

Moderator,	Rev. R. P. Ritch,	Pell City, Ala.
Ass't Mod.,	Rev. T. J. Finch,	R1, Pell City, Ala.
Clerk,	Rev. C. L. Carlile,	R2, Pell City, Ala.

The next Annual Session of this Association will
convene with the Second Free Will Baptist
Church of Alabama City, Alabama,
beginning at 8:30 o'clock on Fri-
day morning before the fourth
Sunday in September, 1939.

FREE WILL BAPTIST GEM PRINT, PURDY, MISSOURI

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PROCEEDINGS

The Fifth Annual Session of Liberty Association of Free Will Baptist convened with the Pleasant Grove Church, Ashville, Ala., beginning on Friday night before the fourth Sunday in September, 1938.

FRIDAY NIGHT SERVICE

Prayer services conducted by Bro. Howard Bishop. Scripture reading, 3rd chapter of 1 John. A real good service, the Lord wonderfully blessed.

SATURDAY MORNING SESSION

At 8:30 a. m., the the clerk called the house to order for temporary organization.

The former moderator, Rev. LeRoy Smith, took charge, reading 1 Cor., 15th chapter, after which he declared the body in order for transaction of business.

Roll call of churches and delegates seated.

Election of Officers

Moderator, Rev. R. P. Ritch, Pell City, Ala.
Ass't Mod., Rev. T. J. Finch, R1, Pell City, Ala.
Clerk, Rev. C. L. Carlile, R2, Pell City, Ala.
Ass't Clerk, Bro. D. J. O'Donnell.

Opportunity was given for membership. The First Free Will Baptist Church of Talladega, Ala., and the Second Free Will Baptist Church of Alabama City, Ala., applied for membership. They were received and their delegates seated in conference.

Report of fifth Sunday meeting read and adopted.

Church letters read and adopted.

Appointment of Committees

Charles 3
William 3
Paul 3
omit
Business—Brothers T. C. Mitchell, Jr., Carlis Hollis, J. S. Howell and H. T. Perkins.

Devotional—Brothers H. A. O'Donnell, S. D. Kimberly and J. T. Heath.

Sabbath Schools—Brothers Wallace Patterson, W. G. Rogers and Sister Nellie Herrin.

is Frank
is Mary
Sister
Family Religion—Brothers A. M. Roberts, B. L. Colly, Jr., Jim Auldridge, Clarence O'Donnell, Sister Ruby Patterson.

Temperance—Sisters Ada Houston, Josie Cooner and Bro. Lloyd Robinson.

Education—Brothers O. B. Hamilton, R. W. Wiggins and Jimmie Wycuff.

Deceased Members—Brothers LeRoy Smith, R. S. Pennington, Sister Mary Griffin.

Auditting—Brothers A. G. Robershaw, LeRoy Smith, and S. D. Kimberly. *Charles & Paul*

Ministerial Standing—Brothers W. G. Rogers, Cecil Simpkins and H. A. O'Donnell.

Literature—Brothers J. R. Weaver, J. G. Roberts and A. G. Robershaw. *Lee Hawk*

Ordaining Council—Reverends—LeRoy Smith, T. J. Finch, R. P. Ritch, A. G. Robershaw, J. G. Rogers.

Motion carried that this council be retained as a standing council for this Association.

SATURDAY, ELEVEN O'CLOCK SERVICE

Preaching by Rev. A. G. Robershaw. Text, St. Matthew 4:55. He brought a real good message.

At 12 o'clock, noon, dinner was served on the grounds by the sisters of Pleasant Grove Church, which was heartily enjoyed by all.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

Reassembled at 1:30 p. m.

Motion carried to pay Bro. R. W. Wiggins one dollar and ten cents (\$1.10) for stationery and printed forms.

Motion carried that we receive and annul the credentials of Rev. C. E. Harbin, and that clerk notify of the action.

Motion carried that Home Mission Treasurer pay Rev. LeRoy Smith and Rev. R. P. Ritch ten dollars (\$10.00) for field work.

Motion carried to elect a Home Mission Board. Brothers A. M. Roberts, Cecil Simpkins and S. D. Kimberly were elected.

Motion carried that we request the Progressive Association to grant us a council of five ordained men to act in our behalf in organizing two quarterly meetings and approve this Association in accordance with the Treatise of the Free Will Baptists.

Motion carried that the moderator appoint corresponding messengers to the Progressive Association to present our petition for said council. Bro. A. M. Roberts was appointed.

Motion carried to adopt all reports of committees, missions and standing committees.

Motion carried to elect the member of the Executive Board for a term of three years. Bro. J. S. Howell was elected.

Motion carried that the \$13.35 now in the associational treasury be turned to treasurer of Home Missions

Motion carried that the clerk be authorized to have 100 minutes printed.

Motion carried to adjourn to reconvene with the Second Free Will Baptist Church of Alabama City, at Alabama City, Ala., on Friday morning at 8:00 o'clock a. m. before the fourth Sunday in September, 1939.

Saturday, 6:30 p. m.

Prayer and testimony service conducted by Sister Mary Roberts. Bible lesson, St. Matt., 5th chapter. It was a wonderful service.

SATURDAY NIGHT SERVICE

Preaching by Rev. H. T. Perkins. A Communion and Feet Washing service followed, with Rev. T. J. Finch breaking the bread.

SUNDAY MORNING SERVICE

Ministers' Conference, beginning at 8:30 a. m.

Preaching at eleven a. m. by Rev. LeRoy Smith. Scripture reading, St. Matthew, 24th chapter. Text, Amos 5:18.

Dismissed with general hand-shake. Everybody seemed to be happy in the Lord.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Business—We recommend that the requests of the Second Free Will Baptist Church of Alabama City, for the ordination of their ministers and deacon be granted. We also recommend that the request of the Pleasant Grove Church for the ordination of a minister be granted.

We find all letters of the churches in good order except of Aldridge Church which failed to put the name of the church in the letter.

We recommend, and urge, that all churches use the given form on page 73 of Treatise for a letter to the Association.

—Bro. J. S. Howell, Chairman.

Devotional—We recommend that Rev. A. G. Robershaw* fill the eleven o'clock hour Saturday.

That Sister Mary Roberts conduct prayer services Saturday night.

That Rev. H. T. Perkins conduct Communion and Feet Washing services Saturday night.

That Rev. LeRoy Smith preach at eleven a. m. Sunday

—Bro. H. A. O'Donnell, Chair.

Sabbath Schools—We recommend that the report of 1936 session be printed, with this addition, That each Sabbath school use nothing but Free Will Baptist literature.

Reprint (1936)—“Teachers and officers should have their lives dedicated to the Lord. We urge parents and young people to see the great need for Sabbath schools. ‘Bring up a child in the way it should go, and when it is old, it will not depart from it.’”

—Sister Julia Pickett, Chair. 1936.

—Bro. Wallace Patterson, Chair.

Temperance—We believe all Christians should be temperate in all things, upright and holy in their daily walks and conversations, leading an humble submissive life to the glory of God's name. We should hold high the banner of our Lord.

—Sister Ada Houston, Chairman.

Family Religion—We believe all Christian parents should teach their children the Word of God in their homes, and take, not send, them to church and Sabbath school. We believe all Christian families should hold regular family devotions.

—Bro. A. M. Roberts, Chairman.

Literature—As literature builds character, and is a great power in the lives of men and women, we should be very careful of the kind we read and sanction in our homes and churches. We earnestly urge the study of the Bible first, and then all wholesome literature based upon its teachings. We especially recommend the use of Free Will Baptist Literature by all Free Will Baptists.

—Rev. J. R. Weaver, Chairman.

Auditing—We find the records in splendid shape, with \$13.35 in the treasury. Received \$6:70, making a total in treasury of \$20.05.

—Rev. A. G. Robershaw, Chairman.

Resolutions—Be it Resolved, That each minister give a written report of his year's work at each session of the Association.

That each member of all churches connected with this Association pay fifty cents per year as a Home Missions fee.

That each member contribute liberally to the support of their pastor.

—Sister Ruby Patterson, Chair.

Education—We recommend that the report of 1936 be reprinted:

Reprint (1936)—“We see in God's Word that the beginning of wisdom is the fear of God. While we believe literary education necessary, yet God's Word says, that after all this, to get understanding. Also it says, ‘My people are dying for lack of knowledge.’ We need to educate our children in the Bible. The church should wake up to its duty, for the harvest is great and laborers are few. We urge all Christians to hold regular family devotions in their homes.”

—C. L. Carlisle, Chairman (1936).

—Rev. O. B. Hamilton, Chairman.

Deceased Members—We are grieved to report that Sister Mellissie Patterson and Sister Emma Seals of Friendship Church have been called from our midst.

We extend our deepest sympathy to the bereaved families.
—Rev. LeRoy Smith, Chairman.

Ministerial Standing—We recommend that a Certificate of Standing be granted to all ordained ministers of this Association, except Rev. C. E. Harbin.

—Bro. W. G. Rogers, Chairman.

Home Missions Board Report—We have paid out ten dollars (\$10.00) in aiding other churches to get a start, and we think it could not have been put to a better use. We have in treasury \$9.50.

—Bro. Cecil Simpkins, Treasurer.

Report of 5th Sunday Ministers' and Deacons' Conference—For the past year the state of religion has been very good. Each church has a prayer meeting and a Sabbath school. We thank God for the addition of two more churches to our conference. We request this Association to take proper steps for a council as set forth on page 47, chapter 3, Section 1, of the Treatise of the Free Will Baptists, that we might be represented in the State Association.

—Rev. R. P. Ritch, Moderator,

—Bro. Cecil Simpkins, Clerk.

MINISTERS' CONFERENCE

We, the ministers of Liberty Association of Free Will Baptists, met in our Third Annual Session with Pleasant Grove Church, on the fourth Sunday in Sept., 1938, with Rev. LeRoy Smith, former moderator in charge.

Clerk called the body to order at 8:30 a. m.

Visiting brethren invited to seats.

Motion carried to elect officers.

Rev. T. J. Finch was elected moderator.

Motion carried to retain former clerk, Bro. D. J. O'Donnell.

Opportunity for membership was given, and the following brethren presented themselves:

Rev. R. P. Ritch, Rev. B. L. Colly, Jr., Rev. Jimmie Wycuff, Rev. A. G. Robershaw, Rev. J. G. Roberts, Rev. R. S. Pennington, Rev. O. B. Hamilton.

Motion carried to receive them into full fellowship.

Motion carried to adopt minutes of previous conference.

Motion carried to drop Rev. C. E. Harbin's and Rev. Clarence Goodwin's names from our roll.

MINISTERS' REPORTS

Rev. O. B. Hamilton, Alabama City, Alabama.

Sermons preached 12, miles traveled 160, expenses \$9.20, collections \$3.75. Assisted in two revivals.

Rev. Roscoe Gardner, Address unknown.

Sermons preached 10, miles traveled 60, offerings \$1.00.

Rev. Jimmie Wycuff, Alabama City, Alabama.

Sermons preached 23, miles traveled 348, expenses \$3.25. Married two couples. Assisted in one revival. Received \$17.50.

Rev. C. L. Carlisle, Pell City, Alabama, R2, B5.

Sermons preached 35, miles traveled 970, expenses \$70.98, received \$61.74. Pastored one church, assisted in one revival, baptized two.

Rev. B. L. Colly, Jr., Alabama City, Alabama.

Sermons preached 16, miles traveled 90, Exp. \$4.75.

Rev. R. P. Ritch, Pell City, Alabama.

Sermons preached 91, miles traveled 3,195, expenses \$118.89, collections \$58.26. Assisted in three revivals, baptized five, conducted one funeral, married one couple, organized one church.

Rev. W. B. Hollis, Pell City, Alabama.

Sermons preached 8, married five couples.

CHURCH REPORTS

Rev. A. G. Robershaw, Altoona, Alabama, R1.

Sermons preached 152, miles traveled 2,500, expenses \$97.88, collections \$139.88. Assisted in three revivals, baptized 24, conducted one funeral, married one couple, pastored two churches.

Rev. R. S. Pennington, Address unknown.

Sermons preached 14, miles traveled 250, expenses \$3.00, collections \$1.00. Conducted one funeral, married one couple.

Rev. J. G. Roberts, Alabama City, Alabama, 21 East Tuscaloosa Avenue.

Sermons preached 22, miles traveled 111, Exp. \$5.65.

Rev. H. T. Perkins, Pell City, Alabama.

Sermons preached 22, assisted in two revivals.

Rev. Clarence O'Donnell, Ashville, Alabama, R1.

Sermons preached 7, miles traveled 50.

Rev. T. J. Finch, Pell City, Alabama, R1.

Sermons preached 31, miles traveled 244, revivals held, one, married one couple, conducted one funeral.

Rev. LeRoy Smith, Pell City, Alabama, R2, B61.

Sermons preached 45, miles traveled 2,560, expenses \$74.00, collections \$18.50. Assisted in two revivals, assisted at one funeral.

Rev. J. R. Weaver, West Blockton, Alabama.

Sermons preached 25, miles traveled 450, expenses \$8.40, collections \$10.00. Conducted one funeral, pastored one church.

Rev. W. C. Howell, Talladega, Alabama.

New church just organized this year, so had no report exact enough to print.

Rev. W. T. Gamble, Talladega, Alabama.

New church just organized this year, so had no report exact enough to print.

Pleasant Grove, Ashville, Alabama, R1.

Rev. C. L. Carlisle, Pastor; Bro. H. A. O'Donnell, Clerk. Delegates: Brothers Hubert Bishop, and James Davis. State of Religion good, members received 3, baptisms 3. Paid pastor \$61.39, building and repairs \$45.75. Paid evangelist \$22.50. Inclosed for minutes \$1.10. Ministers holding membership: Rev. H. T. Perkins, Pell City, Ala., Rev. C. L. Carlisle, Pell City, Alabama, Rev. Roscoe Gardner, address unknown, Rev. Clarence O'Donnell, Ashville, Ala. We ask that you call in question Rev. Roscoe Gardner and, if found worthy, ordain him to the full function of the ministry. We have called Rev. R. P. Ritch of Pell City, Ala. for our pastor for the year 1938-39. Pray for us.

Friendship, Pell City, Alabama.

Rev. C. E. Harbin, Pastor; Bro. Claud Stephens, Clerk. Delegates: Brothers Carlis Hollis, Wallace Patterson, Sisters Nellie Herrin and Ruby Patterson. State of Religion good, good Sunday school and prayer service. Members received this year, by baptism 3, by letter 9, by restoration 4, total 16. Exclusions 11, dismissals 17, deaths 2, total membership 92. Paid pastor \$81.95, inclosed for minutes \$2.30. We have called Rev. W. C. Howell for our pastor for the year 1938-39.

The Second Free Will Baptist Church of Alabama City, Alabama City, Ala.

Rev. A. G. Robershaw, Pastor; Bro. W. G. Rogers, Clerk. Delegates: Bro. Loyd Robinson, Sisters Josie Cooner and Mary Griffin. Inclosed for minutes \$6.00. We ask that you call in question the following ministers and, if found worthy, ordain them to the full function of the ministry: Reverends J. G. Rogers, Jimmie Wycuff, B. L. Colly, Jr. and O. B. Hamilton. Also Bro. B. L. Colly, Sr. and, if found worthy, ordain him to the deaconship. We ask that the next sitting of this body convene with this church. We have called Rev. R. P. Ritch for our pastor for the year 1938-39.

Pilgrim Rest, Aldridge, Alabama.

Rev. J. R. Weaver, Pastor; Bro. Cleo Broadhead, Clerk. Delegates: Bro. Jesse Pickett, Sisters Ada Houston and Sallie Bosworth. State of Religion good. Total membership 75. Inclosed for Home Missions \$2.50, for minutes 70 cents. We have recalled Rev. J. R. Weaver for our pastor for the year 1938-39.

The First Free Will Baptist Church of Talladega, Talladega, Alabama.

Rev. W. C. Howell, Pastor; Bro. J. T. Heath, Clerk. Delegates: Brothers J. S. Howell, Jim Auldridge and J. T. Heath. State of Religion good, good Sunday school and prayer meeting. Paid pastor \$15.00, for building 64.56, inclosed for minutes \$1.00. We have called Rev. W. C. Howell for our pastor for 1938-39.

Report of Ordaining Council

We find the following brethren qualified, and we recommend that they be ordained respectively:

Ministers: Revs. B. L. Colly, Jr., Jimmie Wycuff, O. B. Hamilton and J. G. Rogers.

Deacons: Bro. B. L. Colly, Sr.

—Rev. LeRoy Smith, Chairman.

This work was duly carried out on Sunday morning, being fully authorized by the Association.

FREE WILL BAPTIST ARTICLES OF FAITH

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

2. GOD. There is one living and true God, revealed in nature as the Creator, Preserver, and Righteous Governor of the universe, and in the Scriptures as the Father, Son and Holy Ghost, yet as one God, infinitely wise and good, whom all intelligent creatures are supremely to love, adore and 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, inherited 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 or sincere sorrow for sin and the 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 WILL. The human will is free and self-controlled, having power to yield to the influence of the truth and the Spirit and live, 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. PERSEVERANCE. All believers in Christ, who through grace, persevere in holiness to the end of life, have the 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. THE CHRISTIAN SABBATH. The divine law requires that one day in seven be set apart from secular employments and amusements, for rest, worship, holy works, and activities, and for personal communion with God.

15. WAR. War destroys the lives of the innocent, and is contrary to the New Testament, therefore, we are opposed to war.

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 shall "go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

FREE WILL BAPTIST 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 the 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 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.

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.

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 souls, and the conversion of the world. And may the God of peace sanctify us wholly, and preserve us blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

LETTER TO THE YEARLY CONFERENCE

To the of
Free Will Baptists, when convened with the.....
..... Church at
..... 19.....

We send as delegates our beloved brethren:.....

.....
whom we pray you to receive to sit with you in your
godly deliberations.

State of Religion

Members received this year.....; Baptisms.....;

Dismissed.....; Deaths.....; Total membership.....

Condition of Prayer meeting

Condition of Sunday School

Average No. of Pupils.....; No. Officers.....;

No. Teachers.....

Paid Pastor \$.....; Paid Evangelist \$.....;

Home Missions \$.....; Foreign Missions \$.....;

Building and Repair \$.....; For Education \$.....;

For Publication \$.....; Inclosed for Minutes \$.....

Pastor's name and address

Names and addresses of ministers belonging to our
church

.....
Done by order ofChurch,
assembled in conference this..... day of.....19.....

.....Moderator

.....Clerk.

Remarks

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth
peace, good will toward men." Amen.