

MINUTES

OF THE
SIXTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE
LIBERTY ASSOCIATION
OF
FREE WILL BAPTIST

HELD WITH

Malone Church of Alabama City, Alabama,
beginning on Friday morning, September 23, 1939.

OFFICERS

Moderator,	Eld. J. G. Roberts, Alabama City, Ala.
Ass't Mod.,	Eld. Clifford Streety, Pell City, Ala.
Clerk,	Eld. C. L. Carlisle, Pell City, Ala.
Ass't. Clerk	Bro. D. J. O'Donnell, _____

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be held with Friendship Church of Pell City,
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Fourth Sunday in September, 1940

Free Will Baptist Gem Print, 211 Bond St. Monett, Mo

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ASSOCIATION PROCEEDINGS

The Sixth Annual Session of Liberty Association of Free Will Baptist, convened with Malone Church of Alabama City, Alabama on Friday morning at 8:35 o'clock, September 23, 1939. (This church was formerly the Second Free Will Baptist Church of Alabama City, Alabama.)

FRIDAY MORNING SESSION

The house was called to order by the clerk at 8:35 o'clock. The former Moderator being absent he called upon Eld. J. G. Roberts to open the conference by scripture reading and prayer.

The former Moderator, Eld. R. P. Ritch, arrived at this time took charge.

Motion carried to elect officers for the year 1939-40.

Moderator, Eld. J. G. Roberts, Alabama City, Ala.

Ass't Mod., Eld. Clifford Streety, Pell City, Ala.

Clerk, Eld. C. L. Carlisle, Pell City, Ala.

Ass't. Clerk Bro. D. J. O'Donnell, ————

The letters of the churches were then called for. The following churches reported: Malone church of Alabama City, Ala.; Pilgrim Rest church of Aldridge, Ala.; Pleasant Grove church of Shoal Creek, Ashville, Ala. Route 1; and Friendship church of Pell City, Ala.

Motion carried to adopt letters of the churches and seat their delegates.

Unity church of Kurner, Alabama, presented petition for membership in this Association.

Motion carried to receive the church in full fellowship and seat their delegates.

Report of corresponding messenger, Bro. A. M. Roberts, was received and adopted by motion and he was released.

Appointment of Committees

Business — Eld. O. B. Hamilton, Bro. S. D. Kimberly and Eld. Clarence O'Donnell.

Devotional — Bro. Clarence Howington, Bro. J. Scott and Bro. Joseph Spradley.

Sabbath Schools — Eld. R. P. Ritch, Bro. Johnie Burnham and Sister Sallie Bosworth.

Family Religion—Sister Ruth O'Donnell, Bro. R. F. Jones and Bro. Wiley Barber.

Temperance—Bro. Walter Bosworth, Eld. Herman O'Donnell and Bro. Charley Clayton.

Education—Bro. Joe Prickett, Bro. Johnie Burnham and Bro. R. F. Jones.

Deceased Members—Bro. W. O. Davis, Sister Ruth O'Donnell and Eld. R. P. Ritch.

Auditing—Eld. R. P. Ritch, Bro. Charley Clayton and Bro. Wiley Barber.

Ministerial Standing—Bro. S. D. Kimberly, Bro. D. J. O'Donnell and Bro. Walter Bosworth.

Literature—Bro. W. O. Davis, Eld. Herman O'Donnell and Bro. Clarence Howington.

Resolutions—Eld. Clifford Streety, Eld. Clarence O'Donnell and Bro. Wiley Barber.

Motion carried to appoint an ordaining council for this Associational year.

Ordaining Council—Eld. J. G. Roberts, Eld. R. P. Ritch and Eld. Clarence O'Donnell.

Motion carried to appoint an organizing council for this Associational year.

Organizing Council—Eld. Le Roy Smith, Eld. A. G. Robinshaw, Eld. H. T. Perkins, Eld. T. J. Finch and Eld. O. B. Hamilton.

Motion carried to have a twenty minute recess.

Reassembled at 10:30 a. m. Song service conducted by Bro. Curtis Taylor.

Motion carried to adjourn business until 1:30 p. m.

FRIDAY ELEVEN O'CLOCK SERVICE

Song service conducted by Bro. Curtis Taylor.
Prayer by Eld. R. P. Ritch.

Eld. Clarence O'Donnell took charge of the service by reading latter part of Isa. 35. He then brought a real good message on the subject: "Two ways, life and death." Eld. Clifford Streety followed with a short message on the same subject. Several of the ether bretheren made some good comments.

This was followed by a real warm testimony service; everyone was happy in the Lord. Praise His Holy Name forever.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

Reassembled at 1:30 p. m.

Song service conducted by Bro. Curtis Taylor.

Moderator continued services by reading Psalms 119.

Prayer by Eld. R. P. Ritch.

Motion carried to adopt partial report of Devotional Committee.

Motion carried to adopt partial report of Business Committee.

Bro. Charley Clayton, being recommended for ordination as deacon by the examining council, was then set apart as a deacon by the laying on of hands. Eld. T. J. Finch delivered the ordination sermon, reading Acts 6:1-9. Text: St. John 15:16 "Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you." A wonderful message; instructive to all that will heed.

Motion carried to defer request of Friendship church and Malone church until Saturday morning.

Motion carried that this Association rule that no minister coming from another denomination be eligible to pastor churches of this Association until he has held membership with us for one (1) year.

Motion carried to adjourn until 8:30 o'clock Saturday morning.

SATURDAY MORNING SESSION

The house was called to order by the clerk at 8:30.
Song service and prayer.

Moderator took charge reading Joel 2:1-11.

Committee reports called for. Motions carried to adopt the reports and release the committees.

Motion carried to recess until 1:30 p. m.

Noon Hour

Dinner was served on the grounds by the good sisters of Malone church. Eld. T. J. Finch graced the table: Thanking God for the wonderful fellowship and co-operation of the members of Malone church and all attending churches, for the blessing of food, raiment, mercy and love extended by Him to usward. The dinner was heartily enjoyed by all partakers, and we extend our thanks and appreciation to the good sisters of this church for their kind hospitality during our stay here.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

Reassembled at 1:30. Moderator taking charge by reading St. Mark 13:1-8.

Prayer by Bro. King.

The examining Council reported, and referred Bro. Wiley Barber back to his church for further trial. Eld. J. I. Taylor was referred to the quarterly meeting to give him more time to find his ordination papers that he wished to exchange with us. Motion carried to adopt this report.

Motion carried to grant request of Eld. Jimmie Wycuff, and return his ordination papers that he might exchange with the Progressive Association.

Motion carried to rescind the action of granting the request of Eld. Jimmie Wycuff.

Motion carried that the Home Mission Board use the money on hand in Home Mission treasury as needed.

Motion carried to elect a delegate to the State Association. Eld. R. P. Ritch was elected:

Motion carried to take a collection to defray the expenses of delegate to the State Association, and \$8.50 was donated and turned over to the delegate.

Motion carried that the Clerk prepare proper credentials and petition for membership of this Association, with the State Association.

Motion carried that this body stand adjourned to meet with Friendship Church at Pell City, Alabama, on Friday morning at 9:00 o'clock before the fourth Sunday in September, 1940.

SATURDAY NIGHT SERVICE

Song services conducted by Bro. Curtis Taylor.

Sister Zella Smith conducted mothers prayer service reading from the 12th chapter of Romans. The spirit of God wonderfully blessed us and there was much shouting and praising God. The Lord, according to their testimony, wonderfully saved two souls; praise His precious name forever.

Eld. T. J. Finch conducted the communion and feet washing services. He brought a wonderful message on the duty of all believers doing the whole will of God. May God help us to heed all things whatsoever He commands us.

The table was then prepared; Eld. T. J. Finch breaking the bread and Eld. C. L. Carlisle asked the favor of God to change the bread and wine from a natural to a spiritual food. There were ninety three (93) partakers of the Lord's Supper.

Feet washing then followed with practically all present taking part. The Lord richly blessed us all. Dismissed with singing and prayer.

Let us praise the God of creation forever. Amen.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

BUSINESS — We recommend that the request of Friendship Church be granted, and Bro. Wiley Barber be examined for license to preach the Gospel.

We recommend that the request of Unity church be granted and Bro. Charley Clayton be examined for ordination as deacon.

We recommend that the request of Unity church be granted and Bro. I. J. Taylor be examined and if found worthy, exchange papers with him.

We recommend that this Association rule that a minister coming from another denomination shall hold membership in this denomination for one (1) year before he is eligible to pastor churches of this Association.

— Eld. O. B. Hamilton, Chairman.

DEVOTIONAL — We recommend the following program: Eld. Clarence O'Donnell to preach at 11:00 a. m. Friday, followed by Eld. Clifford Streety.

Eld. T. C. Mitchell to preach at 11:00 a. m. Saturday.

Sister Zella Smith to conduct Mother's Prayer Meeting at 6:30 p. m. Saturday.

Eld. T. J. Finch to conduct Communion and Feet Washing service Saturday night.

— Bro. Clarence Howington, Chairman.

SABBATH SCHOOLS — We recommend that every Christian training be taught at home. That all teachers and officers of Sabbath Schools be regenerated followers of God.

— Eld. R. P. Ritch, Chairman.

FAMILY RELIGION — We believe all Christian parents should have a family altar and use it. Teach their children the Word of God and pray with them, and always take them to church and Sabbath school.

— Sister Ruth O'Donnell, Chairman.

EDUCATION — We recommend that this report be printed in the minutes: We see in God's Word that the beginning of wisdom is the fear of God. While we believe literal education necessary, yet God's Word says, "After all this get understanding." Also it says "My people is dying for the lack of knowledge." We recommend all parents to educate their children more in the Bible. The church should awake to its duty, for the harvest is great and the laborers are few. We urge all Christians to hold regular family devotions in their homes.

— J. A. Prickett, Chairman.

TEMPERANCE — We recommend that all Christians be temperate in their conversations and habits, and meditate in the word of God day and night.

Bro. Walter Bosworth, Chairman.

DECEASED MEMBERS — We find that the Lord has been merciful toward us and the death angel has not passed this way to claim any of our beloved brothers and sisters this past year. Blessed be the name of the Lord. Amen.

— Bro. W. O. Davis, Chairman.

AUDITING — We find the records in splendid condition with \$12.50 in treasury. Received \$19.58. Total now in treasury \$32.08.

— Eld. R. P. Ritch, Chairman.

MINISTERIAL STANDING — We recommend that certificates of standing be granted all ordained ministers of this Association except Eld. W. C. Howell of Talladega, Alabama. Also extend the license of all licensees.

Bro. D. J. O'Donnell, Chairman.

RESOLUTIONS — Be it resolved by this body, That each minister render a written report of his years work at each setting of this body. That each member of churches connected with this Association contribute liberally to the support of their pastor.

— Eld. Clifford Streety, Chairman.

LITERATURE — As literature builds character and is a great power on the lives of men and women, we should be 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.

— Bro. W. O. Davis, Chairman

ORDAINING COUNCIL — We have examined Bro. Charley Clayton as requested by Unity church of Kurner, Ala., and recommend him worthy of ordination for deaconship. We also have examined Bro. Wiley Barber as requested by Friendship church of Pell City, Ala., for license to preach the Gospel and refer him back to his church for further trial. We also have examined Bro. I. J. Taylor as requested by Malone church of Alabama City, Alabama, and refer Him to the next setting of the Quarterly Meeting that he may have time to find his papers that he wished to exchange with us.

— Eld. J. G. Roberts, Chairman.

HOME MISSION BOARD — Total amount in treasury last year \$25.00. Paid out in aid to Talladega church \$10.00. For transportation \$2.50. Total paid out \$12.50. Total amount in treasury \$12.50.

Bro. Cecil Simpkins, Treas.

MINISTERS' REPORTS

ELDER W. B. HOLLIS, Pell City, Alabama, R1 — Preached 11 sermons, married 2 couples, assisted in 2 revivals. Collections, \$3.90.

ELDER LEROY SMITH, Pell City, Alabama, R1. — Preached 65 sermons, assisted in 3 revivals, traveled 2,600 miles. Collections \$24.16, Expended \$56.25

ELDER R. P. RITCH, Pell city, Alabama, % Mill — Preached 171 sermons, pastored 2 churches, baptized 50, conducted 8 revivals, traveled 5,172 miles. Collection, \$219.79, expended \$154.42

ELDER B. L. COLLY JR., Alabama City, Alabama — Preached 72 sermons, baptized 3, assisted in 4 revivals, traveled 745 miles. Collections \$6.50, expended \$16.50

ELDER A. G. ROBINSHAW, Harton, Alabama — Preached 45 sermons, conducted 1 funeral, traveled 500 miles.

ELDER H. T. PERKINS, Ragland, Alabama, R1. — Preached 12 sermons, assisted in 1 revival.

ELDER O. B. HAMILTON, Alabama City, Alabama — Preached 68 sermons, assisted in 4 revivals, traveled 1,085 miles. Collections \$4.96, expended \$37.87

ELDER J. G. ROBERTS, Alabama City, Alabama — Preached 48 sermons, married 2 couples, traveled 510 miles. Collected \$20.50, expended \$25.15

ELDER R. S. PENNINGTON, Eden, Alabama, R1. — Preached 32 sermons, conducted 4 revivals, married 1 couple, traveled 500 miles. Collected \$25.85, expended \$15.00

ELDER J. C. STREETY, Pell City, Alabama, % Mill — Preached 3 sermons, baptized 15, conducted 2 funerals, assisted in 2 revivals, traveled 42 miles. Collected \$28.00, expended 42c

ELDER CLARENCE O'DONNELL, Ashville, Alabama, R1. Preached 9 sermons, traveled 112 miles. Collected \$3.53, expended \$1.29

ELDER T. J. FINCH, Pell City, Alabama, R1. — Preached 32 sermons, conducted 1 funeral, married 2 couples, traveled 984 miles. Collected \$3.00, expended \$4.00

ELDER ROSCOE GARDENER, Bessemer, Alabama — Preached 13 sermons, traveled 180 miles. Collected \$3.25, expended \$2.00

MALCONE CHURCH — Alabama City, Alabama. Pastors name and address, Eld. R. P. Ritch, Pell City, Alabama. Clerks name and address, Bro. Johnie Roberts, Alabama City, Ala. Delegates, Bro. R. F. Jones, Bro. W. Strickland, Bro. Joe Prickett; alternate, Bro. Jess Gilbert.

We ask that Eld. I. J. Taylor be called in question and if found worthy exchange papers with him. We ask that you grant our ordained ministers certificates of standing for the next associational year.

State of religion, good. Members received this year 70; baptized 43; total membership 107. Condition of prayer meeting, good. Condition of Sabbath school, good; Number of officers 4; number of teachers 4. Paid pastor \$144.80; paid evangelist \$19.83; home missions \$1.50; building and repairs \$304.88. Enclosed for minutes \$4.42. Names of ministers holding membership with us: Eld. B. L. Colly Jr., Commock Avenue, Alabama City, Alabama; Eld. I. J. Taylor; Eld. O. B. Hamilton, Gadsen, Alabama; Eld. J. G. Roberts, 21 E. Tuscaloosa Ave., Alabama City, Alabama; and Eld. A. G. Robinshaw, Harton, Ala.

FRIENDSHIP CHURCH — Pell City, Alabama. Pastor's name and address, Eld. Clifford Streety, Pell City, Alabama. Clerk's name and address, Bro. Claud Stevens, Pell City, Ala. Delegates: Bro. Johnie Burnham, Bro. Homer Howell, Bro. Joseph Spradley, Bro. Wiley Barber and Bro. S. D. Kimberly. State of religion, good. Members received this year 50; baptisms 15; dismissals 24; total membership 115. Condition of prayer meeting, good. Condition of Sabbath School, good; Average number of pupils 65; number of officers 3; number of teachers 5. Paid pastor \$67.76; paid evangelist \$33.20. Building and repairs \$92.62 Paid for literature \$24.68 Inclosed for minutes \$5.58 Home missions treasury balance returned to clerk of Association. \$12.50. Names of ministers holding membership with us: Eld. T. J. Finch, Route 1, Pell City, Alabama; Eld. W. B. Hollis; Eld. Le Roy Smith; Eld. C. L. Carlisle; Eld. Clifford Streety, Route 1, Pell City, Alabama; Eld. R. P. Ritch, Pell City, Ala.; Eld. R. S. Pennington, Route 1, Eden, Ala.; and Eld. H. T. Perkins, Route 1, Ragland, Alabama.

We ask that you call in question Bro. Wiley Barber, and if found worthy, grant him license to preach the Gospel. We also ask that you grant our ordained ministers certificates of standing for the next associational year.

PLEASANT GROVE CHURCH—Pastor's name and address, Eld. R. P. Ritch, Pell City, Ala. Clerk's name and address, Bro. Henry Bishop, Ashville, Ala., R1.

Delegates—Bro. W. O. Davis, Bro. Clyde Bishop, Sister Ruth O'Donnell. State of religion, good; members received this year, 9; baptisms, 6; dismissed, 2; total membership, 41. Good prayer meeting. Sabbath school in good condition, average number of pupils, 35; No. of officers, 2; No. of teachers, 4. paid pastor, \$60.64; building and repairs, \$19.25; publication \$5.20.

We ask that you grant our ministers certificates of standing for the next associational year. Names and addresses of ministers holding membershiu with us: Eld. H. T. Perkins, Ragland, Ala., R.1. Eld. Roscoe Gardener, Bessemer, Ala. Eld. Clarence O'Donnell, R.1, Ashville, Ala. Eld. Herman O'Donnell, Ashville, Ala. R1.

UNITY CHURCH—Pastor's name and address, Eld. B. L. Colly, Jr., Alabama City, Ala. Clerk's name and address, J. H. Scott, Alabama City, Ala. Delegates; Bro. Charley Clayton. State of religion, good. Members received this year 3; baptisms 3; total membership 14. Condition of prayer meeting, good; Condition of Sabbath School, good; average number of pupils 30; number of officers 2; number of teachers 4.

PILGRIM REST CHURCH—Pastor's name and address, Eld. J. R. Weaver, West Blodon, Ala. Clerk, Cleo Broadhead. Delegates; Bro. Young Pickett, Bro. Walter Bosworth, Sister Saddle Bosworth; alternate, Sister Houston. State of religion, good. Members received this year, none; dismissed by letter 6; total membership 72. Paid for home missions \$1.00. In-closed for minutes 50c.

STANDING COUNCILS AND COMMITTEES

Ordaining Council—Eld. J. G. Roberts, Eld. R. P. Ritch and Eld. Clarence O'Donnell.

Organizing Council—Eld. Le Roy Smith, Eld. A. G. Robinshaw, Eld. H. T. Perkins, Eld. T. J. Finch and Eld. O. B. Hamilton.

EXECUTIVE BOARD—Bro. Wallace Patterson, Bro. Breman Rogers and Bro. H. D. O'Donnell.

HOME MISSIONS BOARD—Bro. W. G. Rogers, Bro. Henry Bishop and Bro. S. D. Kimberly.

QUARTERLY MEETING REPORT—This body has transacted the following business in behalf of Liberty Association the past year. We have licensed Eld. H. A. O'Donnell and Eld. T. C. Mitchell to preach the Gospel; exchanged papers with Eld. Clifford Streety; and ordained Bro. Clarence Howington for deacon of Alabama City church. We have had some wonderful meetings since the last Association.

—Eld. D. J. O'Donnell, Clerk.

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.

**“LOOK UNTO ME, AND BE SAVED,
ALL YE ENDS OF THE EARTH.”**

ISAIAH 45:22