

MINUTES
OF THE
57TH ANNUAL SESSION
OF THE
Martin Free-Will Baptist
Association

AT
HIGHWAY CHURCH
Brinson, Decatur Co. Georgia
October 22nd and 23rd, 1943

OFFICERS

JOHN E. DRAKE, Moderator ----- Bainbridge, Ga.
W. E. LANE, Sec.-Treas. ----- Iron City, Ga.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

W. L. CLEVELAND, Chairman ----- Iron City, Ga.
G. W. CHAMBERS, ----- Colquitt, Ga.
J. C. ROBERTS, ----- Iron City, Ga.
F. W. CORDELL, ----- Iron City, Ga.
W. J. HILBORNE ----- Newton, Ga.

Next session to convene with Mt. Gilead Church, Decatur County,
Georgia, Friday before the 4th Sunday in October, 1944.
Rev. L. D. Scott to preach Introductory Sermon. Rev. D. Floyd
Alternate.

MINUTES

PROCEEDINGS

Friday--Song service at 10:15. Devotional Sister C. C. Bell of local church. Prayer led by Sister J. L. Tedder. Announcements by moderator. Prayer by Rev. D. Floyd. Appointment of credential committee, Bro. W. L. Cleveland, Bro. W. J. Hilburn and Bro. W. O. Smith.

Introductory by Rev. A. B. Ard at 11 o'clock. Text 5th chapter 2nd Corinthians, concluded by Rev. L. D. Scott.

After preaching service a lunch was served to all church representatives, ministers and visitors, which was enjoyed by all present.

1 o'clock devotional by Sister Tenella Cleveland. Prayer by Rev. E. A. Drake. 1:30 business period. Report of credential committee. Reports. Letters from various member churches were received and read. Bros. C. B. Reece and Willie Barber read the letters and the churches were enrolled as follows:

Corinth: W. O. Smith and wife, J. M. Miller and wife, F. A. Norris and wife, W. B. Cross, wife and daughter.

New Salem: D. J. Roland, W. R. Barber, Bennie Lovering and C. L. Pickren.

New Home No. 1: Mrs. Carl Lane, Howard Roberts and J. C. Roberts.

Springfield: C. F. Helmes and C. B. Reece.

Friendship: Doster Warren and wife, Bill Parr and wife, and A. B. Newberry.

Bellevue: C. C. Kimbrel and wife, James W. Haire and wife, Oscar Brunson and wife, and Mrs. Tenella Cleveland.

Hammock Springs: By letter. New Home no. 2: Eddie Avery and J. B. Saddler. Mothers Home: Mrs. Zula Stinson.

Hebrew: W. C. Atkinson and wife, Pat Parker and wife and Gordon Alday.

Mt. Gilead: Sister A. L. Boyd, Bro. and Sister W. M. Smith

Highway: Perry Mills. Ralph Bell. and Carlton Bell.

Thompson: W. H. Miller and wife, C. B. Grimes and Lucile Josev.

Pilgrim's Home: Mrs. Guy Touchton, Bro. E. P. McNeal, P. B. Hilburn and W. J. Hilburn.

Mt. Glory: J. A. Taylor and wife and Ethel Taylor.

Cool Springs: W. W. Blunt and John Taylor.

Called for petitionary letters. Received none.

The usual committees were named by the moderator.

Committee on Sabbath Schools: Sister Tenella Cleveland, Sister W. R. Barber and C. B. Reece.

Sabbath Observance: Bennie Lovering, Rev. D. Floyd and Rev. A. B. Ard.

Program Committee: W. L. Cleveland, Chairman; Rev. H. L. Catrett, W. Lambert, Mrs. W. E. Lane and Mrs. Linda Powell.

Executive Committee: not changed. cmf

Nominations: W. B. Cross, Carlton Bell and Bro. W. W. Blunt.

Investigations: D. J. Roland, W. Lambert and A. B. Newberry.

Obituaries: George Cleveland, Rev. H. L. Catrett, Mrs. W. I. Cleveland, Mrs. W. E. Lane and Mrs. E. B. Bush.

Temperance: Mrs. W. R. Barber, C. F. Helmes, I. B. Saddler, Mrs. Carlton Bell and E. P. McNeal.

Arrangements: Pastor, all the deacons and Clerk of Highway Church

Education: W. L. Cleveland, W. J. Hilburn, Rev. L. D. Scott, Mrs. Irvin Perry and Rev. A. B. Ard. vb

Suggestions: Rev. H. L. Catrett, Rev. A. B. Ard, Mrs. W. C. Bagley, Rev. C. A. Gilbert and Bro. E. P. McNeal. Called for correspondence from other associations were received. Letter from the Georgia Union was received. to respond same by letter.

Midway: Rev. J. L. Tedder, Rev. E. C. Williams. Next session to convene with Mt. Zion church, Rowena, Ga., Early county, Nov. 3 and 4, 1943.

The Sunday school convention meets with Highway church 1st Sunday in April, 1944..

Elected delegates to State Assn. as follows: Bro. J. E. Drake and Bro. W. L. Cleveland.

It was moved and carried that the clerk pay the delegates 1-2 cent per capita out of associational funds to pay entrance fee at The State Ass'n., which convenes at Greenwood church, Camilla, Ga., Nov. 16 and 17th, 1943.

Report of program committee: We your committee, have selected to preach Friday night Bro. D. R. Braswell, Bro. D. Floyd to preach Saturday A. M.

W. L. Cleveland. Chairman.

A freewill offering was taken up for old age ministers which amounted to \$28.00

Treasurer's report shows a balance on hand of \$40.60. Received from credential committee \$108.60, total \$149.20 Paid J. E. Drake \$10.50 state convention and national Ass'n. fee.

Report on missions by W. L. Cleveland as follows: Home Mission. New Home--\$20.00, Bellview--\$125.00, Union meeting--\$3.00 Total--\$148.00.

FOREIGN MISSIONS

Salem--\$4.30. Union meeting--\$48.07, Ass'n--\$1147, Bellview--\$5. Total--\$68.84.

SATURDAY MORNING

Convention met at 9 o'clock. Song service. Prayer by Bro. L. C. Carter. Received Bro. L. C. Carter from 2nd Baptist church of Bainbridge, Ga. Rev. Willie Sellers from Georgia Union Sister Alma McDonald and Sister Jones from Midway. Moved that the moderator extend the right hand of fellowship to the visiting delegates. The church decorum and doctrinal views were read.

Called for ministers report: Rev. E. A. Drake and Rev. H. L. Catrett.

REPORT FROM NOV. 1, 1942, TO OCT. 21, 1943

I have pastored the following churches: Blakely, New Salem, Thompson, Oak Grove, Bellview, New Home No. 1. Conducted 46 funerals, baptized 12, attended the State Association, attended the Midway Association, attended 6 Union Meetings, attended 2 Sunday School Convention, attended 2 Ladies Aux. Conventions, visited several other churches, preached 322 sermons, traveled 12,380 miles, and received in compensation \$650.00. The Lord has blessed in a wonderful way this year. But I am asking your prayers that the Lord may use your humble servant to accomplish more in the future years.

H. L. Catrett.

Appointed correspondents to other assn's: Midway of Georgia Rev. H. L. Catrett, Bro. J. C. Roberts, and Bro. George Chambers. State Line of Alabama: Bro. D. Floyd, Chattahoochee: Communicate by minute. Union: Bro. H. L. Catrett and Bro. D. J. Roland. Ga. Union: Correspond by letter.

Same delegates to State Ass'n to be delegates to the National Ass'n through the State Association.

The congregation of the Ass'n stood 2 minutes in silent prayer in memory of Bro. A. P. Norris and Bro. S. A. McLendon, deceased

Recessed for 5 minutes. After recess the association met back for preaching service. After song service, prayer by Rev. J. W. Sellers. The 11 o'clock message was brought by Rev. D. Floyd. Subject was taken from 5th chapter of Galations. after which the convention dismissed for the noon hour.

Saturday P. M.

Reconvened at 2:30 Song service, Devotional by Bro. George Cleveland. Superannuation Committee appointed: Appointed Bro. J. C. Roberts, Bro. W. J. Hilburn and W. L. Cleveland Heard Committee reports.

The moderator agreed to give the \$10.00 the association pays him for his services to Emeritus Bro. E. A. Drake and Bro. Low Yates.

The same officers of the ass'n were appointed for the next year.

The time and place for the next ass'n is Mt. Gilead Church, Decatur County, Ga., Fri. and Sat. before the 4th Sunday in Oct., 1944. Extended rising vote of thanks to Highway Church and Community for their hospitality shown us while in their midst. A free-will offering was taken up for Bro. Lon Yates which amounted to \$24.00.

Bro. L. C. Carter of the 2nd Baptist Church of Bainbridge, Ga. made a talk which was soul stirring to every one present.

Report of Committees received and Committees relieved except such Committees as hold over to the next session.

Moved and carried that the moderator be paid \$10.00 for his services and \$15.00 for the clerk's services.

Took parting hand and adjourned to next meet with Mt. Gilead Church, Bainbridge, Ga., Friday before the 4th Sunday in Oct., 1944.

J. E. Drake, Moderator
W. E. Lane, Sec-Treas.

SABBATH SCHOOLS

We your committee on Sabbath schools beg to make the following report: We find some of our churches do not have a Sabbath school. We therefore recommend that all our churches have and maintain a Sabbath school as we believe our young people brought up in Sabbath schools make better citizens because of the Christian training they get through the teaching of Sabbath school.

Tenella Cleveland, Chairman.
Mrs. W. R. Barber
C. B. Reese

SABBATH OBSERVANCE

We, your committee on Sabbath Observance recommend that we as parents, young people and ministers observe the Sabbath Day more perfectly by attending all religious services possible and keeping it holy to the Lord, refraining from work that would hinder the cause of Christ.

Respectfully,
Drew Floyd
Bennie Lovering
A. B. Ard

Program Committee

We recommend that the Assn. convene with Mt. Gilead Church, that L. D. Scott preach the introductory sermon. Rev. D. Floyd, alternate. We recommend as officers Jno. E. Drake, moderator and W. E. Lane, Sec-Treas., Ordaining Council not changed.

C. C. Bell
W. B. Cross

Education

We your committee find we have a school in Nashville, Tenn., for Christian Education. We urge our churches to help this worthy cause and that our pastors preach at least one sermon a year on Christian Education.

W. L. Cleveland
A. B. Ard
Mrs. C. M. Perry
W. J. Hilburn
L. D. Scott

INVESTIGATING COMMITTEE

We your investigating committee find our churches and ministers in good standing except Bro. W.A. Addison who is out of order and we recommend that his name be dropped from the minister's list. We also ask a report from Mother's Home church delegation and pastor, as we find his church has him under dealings. We submit the following.

rd l'hdrlu hrdluh --
W. L. Lambert, chairman
A. B. Newberry.
D. J. Roland

TEMPERANCE

We your committee on Temperance find that intemperance is on the increase. vbg kfwmqy cmfwymrdl

"Wine is a mocker. Strong drink is raging; and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise". Prov. 20-1.

God's people should set the example of total abstinence.

We recommend that our preachers preach at least two temperance sermons each year, and that the lay members not only abstain from strong drink themselves but encourage others to do so.

Mrs. W. R. Barber

Mrs. C. C. Bell

I. B. Saddler

RESOLUTIONS

We your committee on Resolutions beg to submit the following:

Seeing that age is inevitable and poverty is deplorable;

Therefore, be it resolved that each church in this association bring to each session of the association in the future \$5.00 each or more for superannuation. mfwy pmfwyp mfwyra

2nd. Resolved that this body appoint or elect a board of at least 3 members to hold the funds and distribute to the aged ministers as necessity may demand.

We further resolve that this body extend a rising vote of thanks to this church and community for their gracious hospitality to the ministers and delegation of this association.

Resolved that this body extend a vote of appreciation to our moderator and clerk for their efficient and business-like manner in which they have conducted this session of the association.

Respt. submitted,

Eld. H. L. Catrett, Chairman

Eld. D. Floyd

OBITUARIES

We the committee on obituaries beg to submit the following: Since our last session of this association the Lord has deemed it

New Salem Church: Elder S. A. McLendon; Sister Martha Smith and Zora Mock. cmfwyp mfwyp mrdl umfwymfdlu

best to call the following saints to their Eternal Home:

Bellview Church: Sister Minnie Deese, Belle Haire, and Dollie Brown, and Bros. I. J. Perry and Charlie Kimbrel.

Corinth Church Bro. C. A. Sheffield.

Highway Church: Elder A. P. Norris. Mrs. C. T. Turner.

Hebrew Church: Sisters Donie Strickland and Janie Robertson

New Home No. 1 Church: Bro. W. M. Melton.

New Home No. 2 Church: Bro. Earlie Sadler.

Springfield: Miss Nanny Dupree.

We deplore the passing of these faithful saints but realize our loss is heaven's gain. Therefore, we bow our heads in humble submission to Him who doeth all things well:

Respt. submitted,

H. L. Catrett, chairman:

G. L. Cleveland; Mrs. W. E. Lane;

Mrs. W. L. Cleveland, Mrs. E. B. Bush

SUGGESTIONS

We your committee on Suggestions beg to submit the following report: We suggest that the ministers of the Martin Association form a minister's conference meeting quarterly for the purpose of better preparing themselves in doctrinal and Bible views of the Bible, and a better understanding of and fellowship with each other, in order that they may more thoroughly understand each other and preach the same free gospel of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Not preaching many gospels, but preaching the gospel to many.

We suggest that the moderator be paid \$10.00 and the Clerk \$15.00 for their services.

Respt. H. L. Catrett, Chairman
Eld. A. B. Ard
Eld. C. A. Gilbert
Mrs. W. C. Baggerly.

ORDAINED MINISTERS

E. M. BROCKETT, Iron City, Ga.
F. A. NORRIS, Iron City, Ga.
W. H. HORN, Donalsonville, Ga.
E. A. DRAKE, Bainbridge, Ga.
A. B. ARD, Bainbridge, Ga.
D. R. BRASWELL, Donalsonville, Ga.
W. H. ELY, Iron City, Ga.
A. J. TOMLINSON, Climax, Ga.
H. L. CATRETT, Colquitt, Ga.
D. FLOYD, Colquitt, Ga.
L. D. SCOTT, Brinson, Ga.
TOM HENRY, Colquitt, Ga.
C. A. GILBERT, Colquitt, Ga.

LICENTATE MINISTERS

J. E. MUSIC, Donalsonville, Ga.
N. L. LAMB, Climax, Ga.
D. KELLEY, Whigham, Ga.
W. K. WILSON, Bainbridge, Ga.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Organize
2. Call for letters from various churches.
3. Call for correspondence from sister associations.
4. Invite visiting brethren to seat with us.
5. Call for petitionary letters.
6. Appoint committees.
7. Roll call and read decorum.
8. Appoint correspondents to sister associations
9. Call for report of committees.
10. Elect Officers for next session.
11. Appoint time and place for next session.
12. Adjournment.

DOCTRINAL VIEWS

1. We believe that the Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired and is a treasure of heavenly instruction that has a God for its author, salvation for its end and truth without mixture of error for its matter; that it reveals the principals by which God will judge us, and therefore, it shall remain with us to the end of time, the true center of Christian union and the supreme standard to which all human conduct and opinion should conform.

2. That there is but one true God, whose name is Jehovah the maker and ruler of Heaven and earth, inexpressively glorious in holiness, worthy of all possible honor, confidence and love, revealed in the personal distinction of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost, equal in every divine perfection, and executing distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption.

3. That man was created in a state of holiness under the laws of his Maker, but by voluntary transgression fell from that holy and happy state, in consequence of which men are sinners, not by constraint, but by choice, being by nature utterly void of that holiness required by the law of God; wholly given to the gratification of the world, of Satan and their sinful passions and therefore under just condemnation to eternal ruin; without defence or excuse.

4. That the salvation of sinners is wholly of grace through the mediation of the Son of God, who took upon him our nature: yet without sin honored the law by His personal obedience, and made atonement for sin by His death; being risen from the dead. He is now enthroned in Heaven and uniting in His Wonderful person the tender sympathies with divine perfection, in every way qualified to be a suitable compassionate and all sufficient Savior.

5. That the great gospel blessings which Christ of His fullness bestows on such as believe on Him is justification; that justification consists in the pardon of sin and promise of eternal life upon principles of righteousness; that it is bestowed, not in consideration of anything which we have done, but solely through His own righteousness and atonement, and that it brings us unto a state of most blessed peace and favor with God.

6. That the blessings of salvation are made free to all by the Gospel; that it is the immediate duty of all to receive them by a cordial and obedient faith, and that nothing prevents the salvation of the greatest sinner on earth but his own voluntary refusal to submit to the Lord Jesus Christ which results will subject him to aggravated condemnation.

7. That in order to be saved we must be regenerated or born again. That regeneration consists of giving a holy disposition to the mind, and is effected in a manner above our comprehension by the power of the Holy spirit producing a voluntary obedience to the Gospel;; and that its proper evidence is found in the holy fruits we bring forth to God.

8. That election is the gracious purpose of God, according to

which He regenerates, sanctifies and saves sinners. That being perfectly consistent with the free agency of man, it comprehends all means with the end, that it is a most glorious display of God's goodness. being infinitely wise, holy, unchangeable; that it utterly excludes boasting and promotes humility, prayer, praise, trust in God, and active imitation of His free mercy; that it encourages the use of means in the highest degree; that it is the foundation of Christian assurance, and that to ascertain it with regard to ourselves, demands and deserves our utmost diligence.

9. That the preserving attachment of true believers to Christ the grand mark which distinguishes them from superficial professors; that a special providence watches over their welfare and that they are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.

10. That the law of God is the eternal, unchangeable rule of His government; that it is holy, just and good, that the inability which the Scriptures ascribe to fallen man to fulfill the precepts arise entirely from their love of sin to deliver them from which and to restore them through a mediator to unfeigned obedience to the Holy law is one design of the Gospel and the means of grace connected with the establishment of the visible church.

11. That the first day of the week is the Lord's day or Christian Sabbath; that it should be kept sacred to religious purposes by abstaining from all secular labor and reception by the direct observance of all means of grace, both public and private, and prepare for the rest which remains for the people of God.

12. That civil government is of divine appointment for the interest of order of human society; that the magistrates are to be prayed for conscientiously; honor and obeyed in all things not contrary to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ. who is the Lord of conscience and Prince of the kings of the earth.

13. That there is a radical and essential difference between the righteous and wicked. and that such only are justified by faith in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and is sanctified by the spirit of God as are truly righteous in His esteem while all such as continue in impenitence and unbelief are. in His sight, wicked and under the curse and this distinction holds good among men. both in and after death. cmrdl mfw

14. That the end of this world is approaching when Christ will descend from the Heaven and raise the dead from their graves to final retribution, that solemn separation will then take place, the righteous being adjudged to everlasting happiness and the wicked to endless punishment and his judgment will forever fix the final state of men in Heaven or Hell on principles of righteousness.---John 5:25: Matt. 25:31; 41:46.

ASSOCIATIONAL DECORUM

1. This Association shall be called to order by the former moderator, who presided at the last session, if present; if not present, then the clerk, if he should be absent, then by some other bro.

2. This Association shall be opened and closed with prayer.

3. The moderator and clerk of the preceding session shall

officiate until the body is organized by electing a moderator and clerk in any way the body may direct.

4. It shall be the duty of the moderator to call the meeting to order, to see that order is preserved, receive and submit all questions to the body. He shall have the privilege of speaking but must call upon some other brother to preside in his place while speaking. He shall not have the right to vote unless the body is equally divided, when he may cast the deciding vote.

5. The members present shall be enrolled and their names called as often as necessary.

6. The majority of the members present shall rule in cases, except upon admission of new churches, which shall require a unanimous vote.

7. No member shall absent himself from the house without leave from the moderator, and no member shall leave the association without the consent of the body.

8. All business shall be brought before the body by a move and second and shall be disposed of according to good usage.

9. No person shall be allowed to speak more than three times on the same subject nor more than fifteen minutes each time without permission from the body.

10. No person shall be disturbed while speaking unless he departs from the subject and it will be necessary to call him to order.

11. Only one person shall be allowed to speak at a time and he must rise to his feet and address the moderator and must not use abusive language or personal reflection on any one without being subject to call to order by the moderator.

12. It shall be the duty of the Clerk to keep a minute of the proceedings and read the same when called upon, to be corrected at the discretion of the body, and shall prepare the minutes for publication, unless the association shall appoint some one for that purpose. He shall keep all books and papers belonging to the association and read the same when ordered to do so, and shall have such compensation for his services as the association may prescribe.

13. It shall be the duty of the corresponding secretary to carry on correspondence by writing to persons belonging to other associations of like faith in any way that would be likely to create interest in this association for its promotion and well being.

14. It shall be the duty of the treasurer to keep all money committed to him by the association, and to keep an account of receipts and expenditures, make a report at every association if called upon, pay out money when ordered to do so by the association, and shall receive such compensation as the association may prescribe.

15. These rules of decorum may be amended at the discretion of the association.

CHURCH DECORUM

1. The church may choose a pastor annually at the last regular conference in association year; or if they prefer it may choose a pastor for an indefinite length of time to continue from year to year, as long as they deem it proper to keep up the connection.

2. When it becomes necessary, a pastor may be chosen at another time; but if the choice be made at a special conference, the time must be appointed at a monthly meeting of the church.

3. The pastor shall be the moderator of the church, but when he is absent or does not sit as moderator, being present, some suitable brother shall be appointed to sit in his place.

4. There shall be two or more deacons in the church whose duty it shall be to superintend the collection and disbursement of the contributions made by the church for the pastor, etc., and to distribute the bread and wine in the administration of the Lord's supper.

5. The deacons shall take notice of such members as refuse or neglect to partake of the Lord's supper and endeavor to ascertain the cause, that the same may be laid before the church in conference if necessary.

6. Some suitable member shall be appointed clerk and it shall be his duty to do all the recording and other writing pertaining to the business of the church and preserve a file of the minutes of the association.

7. When a new clerk is appointed all the books, etc., belonging to the clerk shall be immediately delivered to him by his predecessor.

8. When a church deems it necessary, a committee of not less than three male members well acquainted with business, shall be appointed, whose duty it shall be to give advice to brethren who apply to them relative to cases of

9. The church shall hold two days meeting monthly, embracing Saturday and the Lord's day following the first of which shall be the regular time of conference.

10. 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 special manner by giving plain and pointed lessons on doctrine, discipline and the rules of holy living.

11. Any male member, who shall fail to attend three successive conferences, and any member whatever who may be generally remiss in attending the meetings of the church according to the covenant Article 10, shall be cited to appear in conference and answer for his neglect, but the church may exempt members from this rule if necessary.

12. Conference, after prayer or divine service shall be opened as follow: 1. inviting visiting brethren to se(at, 2. Opening the door of the church for the reception of members. 3. Calling for the reading of the minutes of the last conference. 4. Calling for absentees. 5. For acknowledgements. 6. For references or deferred business. 7. For new matters of dealings, which are to come before the

body. 8. For miscellaneous business.

13. Visiting brethren, as help called in from sister churches, shall be allowed to speak and make motions and seconds, but not allowed to vote.

14. Any orderly member of the Baptist church may be received into the church without letter, when it is made apparent that his Christian character is unimpeachable, and that he has applied for a letter and could not obtain it because he desired to join this or some sister church. All other members must join by letter or baptism.

15. No member shall be received without the unanimous consent of the members present, but unreasonable objections shall not be valid and unless withdrawn the member who makes them shall be liable to be taken under dealings by the church.

16. When the moderator calls for absentees, the clerk shall inform the church what members have been absent from three successive conferences, and the moderator shall appoint some brother or brethren to cite each of them to the next conference.

17. No member shall be expelled unless he has been cited verbally or in writing, to attend his trial; provided his residence be known to the church.

18. When a witness, not a member of the church, is introduced, he shall not be examined till the question has been put to the church: "Will you hear the testimony of this witness?"

19. The evidence in every case of dealing and acknowledgement shall be minuted in the church book.

20. Members dismissed from the church by letter who become disorderly or continue to hold their letters without a good reason, shall be cited to the conference to answer for their conduct.

21. Expelled members may be restored to fellowship on their petition if their walk since expulsion has convinced the church that they have sincerely repented of their former evil conduct.

22. A vote shall not be taken upon any question without a move and second, and in all important questions the vote shall be taken by rising to the feet.

23. No motion shall be made while a move and second is before the conference.

24. It shall be considered disorderly for any member to absent himself from conference when an important question is to be decided; but a member, upon his request, may be exempted from voting on either side in peculiar cases.

25. No member shall leave the house during conference without sufficient cause, nor engage in conversation or whispering without being subject to be called to order by the moderator.

26. All discussions in conference must be conducted with calmness and good feeling; those who speak must rise to their feet and address the moderator, and keep to the point in debate.

27. No one shall speak more than three times on the same motion without permission from the moderator, nor shall the remarks of any one be unreasonably long.

28. When the moderator speaks in debate he must nominate some brethren moderator in his stead.

29. No one shall be interrupted while speaking unless it is necessary to call him to order.

30. It shall be the rule of the church to attend to the administration of the Lord's supper and foot washing at least four times a year, and the expenses are to be paid by the church.

31. Members not in good standing shall not commune, but the administration shall not be deferred on account of any ordinary matter of dealing.

32. Public fasting, humiliation and prayer shall be observed on proper occasions.

33. It shall be the duty of the pastor to take up collections quarterly for the support of the home mission work.

34. It shall be the duty of each church to appoint a committee to revise the church book once a year.

35. This decorum may be altered or amended by the vote of two-thirds of the members present at any two successive monthly conferences.

ARTICLES OF FAITH

1. The Scripture. The Scripture of the old and the New Testaments were given by the inspiration of God, and are binding on all as our only rule of faith and practice. There is only one living and true God, infinite in all of his attributes; the Creator, Preserver and Governor of the Universe; revealed to us in the Scripture as Father, Son and Spirit.

2. Christ. He is God manifest in the flesh; being in His divine nature true, God, in His human nature true man, united in the person of Messiah as the mediator for the redemption of the world.

3. The Holy Spirit. He possesses all personal divine attributes belonging to the Reformer, Comforter and Sanctifier of men.

4. Divine Purpose and Providence. The purpose of God is eternal and immutable, and His Wise and Holy Providence is over all things to secure His Only glory and the highest welfare of all creatures.

5. Original State and Fall of Man. Man was created upright, but by disobedience fell into a state of sin and condemnation. All his posterity inherits his fallen nature, which is cherished by indulgence so all who come to years of moral accountability, sin and come short of the glory of God.

6. The Atonement. Christ in His great compassion offered Himself as a sacrifice in our stead, and those by His life, suffering and death, made an atonement which is full and free to all, and opens the only way to salvation.

7. Grace. No one can by his own work merit, obtain salvation which is wholly of the grace of God, and through which all spiritual blessings are bestowed upon us.

8. Condition of Salvation. These are repentances implying Godly sorrow for open concessions and other renunciations of sin, faith or the unreserved committal of the mind and heart to receive, obey and trust in Christ, regeneration by the Holy Spirit, whereby the soul is free from the dominion of sin and brought into the glorious liberty of the children of God.

9. Election. God has not fixed the future state of man by any unconditional decree, but determined from the beginning to save all who could comply with the conditions of salvation.

10. Perseverance. None will be finally saved but those who, through grace, persevere in holiness. e

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. The Freedom of the Will. The human will is not controlled by any fatal necessity or external force, but is free and self-determined, having power to yield to gracious influences or resist them and perish.

13. Gospel Ordinances. Baptism or the immersion of believers in water, and the Lord's supper are ordinances to be perpetuated under the Gospel or universal obligation and to be administered to all true believers.

14. The Sabbath. The Christian Sabbath is a divine institution binding on all, and should be observed by abstaining from all secular business, amusements and consecrated to the worship of God and to spiritual improvement.

15. The Resurrection. Final judgment and final retribution. Christ will make His second appearance at the end of the world, when the dead will be raised, the judgment will set, the righteous will be received to eternal blessedness, and the wicked banished to endless suffering.

GOVERNMENT AND ORDINANCES

1. We believe that the Gospel church, or a church of Christ is a congregation of Christians constituted and governed according to the rules laid down in the New Testament.

2. That these rules require churches to reserve the form of government and ordinances of the first Christian churches, and to be composed of baptized believers in Christ.

3. That the visible church is the aggregate or whole number of Gospel churches, and that the invisible church is composed of the redeemed now in Heaven; and of such Christians now on earth as are not attached to the visible; according to the Gospel rules.

4. That the establishment of a central or Catholic government over the visible church or any part thereof is a device of earthly ambition repugnant to the word of God and subversive to the churches and dangerous to the liberties of men.

5. That the Gospel churches are the only ecclesiastical bodies or tribunals authorized by the Scripture; that each church has the unrestricted right to administer its own government without supervision or interference, being under Christ essentially independent and absolute and that if this right is surrendered to a superintendent.

ing jurisdiction by delegation or otherwise the assembly ceases to be a gospel church.

That churches may nevertheless, meet by delegates, from an association and declare the terms upon which they will keep up a friendly correspondence but that the rights and authority of the churches being inalienable are in no wise compromised by or hindered by entering into an association, therefore associations have no shadow of authority over churches or individuals, their only powers being to transact business which does not pertain to churches in their ecclesiastical capacity, or to promote mutual intercourse and concentration of voluntary effort, and to give that advice to churches which might with equal authority be given by an individual

7. That the authority of churches are designated for the perpetuation of the true religion of the Gospel and for the preservation of a pure and orderly body of Christians on earth, that is fully sufficient for the purpose intended, but it does not extend to the person's property or consciences of men in any case whatever.

8. That the only requisites to church membership are faith in Christ and obedience to the Gospel, that faith in Christ necessarily exists in connection with the belief in the fundamental truths of Christianity, and to prescribe any other requisites of church membership is an assumption on the part of the church and a departure from the plan of the Gospel:

9. That the officers of the church are elders and deacons; that elders are also called bishops or pastors; that all elders are equal in rank; though they may perform different functions since some may be bishops or pastors of a particular church, while others may be simply elders, having no pastoral charge.

10. That the authority of the minister of the Gospel extends to teaching, exhorting and rebuke, but no further, that he can not perform any act which belongs to the authority of the church, such as the reception of members into the church, the expulsion of offenders, that as members of the church he is no more than any other member, and if he is guilty of transgression he is to be brought to trial before his brethren and convicted or acquitted in the same manner as if he were a private person; yet we think it prudent and proper to call in advisory help, especially if the minister is to be tried upon charge of heresy.

11. That Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water in the name of the Father, Son, and of the Holy Ghost.

12. That the Lords Supper is an ordinance to be observed in the church till the Lord comes.

13. The elders and deacons must be set apart to their office by ordination, by the imposition of the hands of the presbytery and prayer, without which they are not authorized to administer the ordinances pertaining to their respective offices.

ASSOCIATIONAL CONSTITUTION

1. A church proper in its lowest sense is a body of Christians

united and congregated together for the purpose of worshiping God and promoting His cause, and in which the Gospel is regularly preached; the ordinances duly administered and the principles of holiness encouraged and practiced. Each church or body thus formed a separate part thereof and independent in itself; possessing the right to direct its own affairs in its own way, subject only in certain difficult cases to arbitrate by sister churches. Such churches may, however, unite in associational capacity for purposes of more thorough organization, efficient work and for general and mutual good of all without surrendering any of their individual rights. Therefore, the churches hereinafter mentioned resolve themselves into a body Clesiastic to be known as the Martin Association of Free Will Baptist which shall meet annually at such time and place as may be agreed upon by the body at its annual meeting.

The association, when assembled, shall be composed of all ministers of the association, both ordained and licentiates, and the delegates or messengers chosen by the several churches from time to time for that purpose.

The number of delegates to be determined by the membership of the respective churches. To simplify this we will state that any church is entitled to two delegates, it matters not how few members it may have. That after it has attained fifty members it shall then be entitled to one more delegate to every twenty-five members, or fractional part thereof, until it has reached one hundred; then for every fifty, or fractional part thereof, and go on increasing in this ratio to any number. !

4. The officers of the association shall consist of of a moderator, and treasurer, to be chosen annually from the members present; moderator and clerk to be elected by ballot or as the Association deems proper.

5. It shall be the duty of the moderator to preside over the body during the session for which he is elected, call the session to order, enforce the rules of the decorum, decide all question of discipline, and in case of a tie, to cast the deciding vote

6 It shall be the duty of the clerk to keep an accurate record of the business transactions of the association, superintend the printing of the minutes and draw on the treasurer for the funds to discharge the expanse of the same: He shall hold office until his successor is elected and installed, and shall receive such compensation for his services as the association may deem proper to allow.

7. There shall be an executive committee of discrete brethren appointed annually by the moderator, or elected by the body who shall properly be the association in recess, and whose duty may be more fully defined from time to time by the association. The treasurer shall be one of the number.

8. When the association is assembled a majority of all the members enrolled shall be required to form a quorum for the transaction of business.

9. All debates shall be conducted in a Christianlike and brotherly spirit. All shall be allowed the privilege of speaking on any question which is submitted to the consideration of the body.

10. Every speaker shall rise to his feet, address the moderator, and keep to the question in debate, and shall avoid all unpleasant reflections and personalities.

11. No brother shall be allowed to consume more than fifteen minutes in one speech, or speak more than twice on the same subject except by permission from the moderator or body.

12. All questions shall be submitted by move and second the first motion taking precedence in point of order. Every motion seconded must be acted upon, unless withdrawn by the mover.

13. The business shall be taken up in order according to the subjoined plan, unless it becomes necessary to suspend the regular rules for a time for purposes which appear proper.

14. The moderator shall, at each session, invite corresponding delegates from other bodies of our own order, and also ministers from other denominations to seats, when thus seated shall be entitled to the friendship of honorary members.

ASSOCIATIONAL COVENANT

Having been, we trust, brought together to organize an association; by divine grace to embrace our Lord Jesus Christ, to give ourselves up wholly to Him, with all humility and brotherly love; to watch over each other for good, and stir up each other to love good work, and not forsaking the frequent assembling of ourselves together with our neighbors to worship God according to His revealed will, as occasion may require; to warn, rebuke and admonish each other according to the rules of the Gospel, that the knowledge may be thereby promoted to the end. We will uphold the public worship of God and the ordinances of His house, and hold constant communion with each other therein; and we will cheerfully contribute of our property for the maintenance of a faithful minister of the Gospel among us and for the extension of the blessed Redeemer's kingdom among us universally. We will not omit family and closet religion at home nor allow ourselves in the too common neglect of the great and important duty of religiously training our children for the service of God and the enjoyment of heaven. We will also sympathize with each other in seasons of temptation and affliction and be ready to distribute to the necessities of the saints. We will especially pray for and with each other for the churches universally, for the promised effusion of the Holy Spirit, for prosperity of Zion, and the ingathering of the elect and may the God of Peace, who brought again from the dead, our Lord Jesus Christ, that great Shepherd of the Sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make up perfect in every good work to do His will, that we may not only enjoy a name and place in the church on earth but finally with His glorious church of the first born of Heaven in ascribing blessings, honor, might, majesty to Him who sitteth on the throne and the Lamb forever.

NAME OF CHURCH	PASTORS FOR 1944	CLERKS FOR 1944	P O. OF CLERKS	Meeting Days	Rec'd by Letter	Rec'd by Prof.	Restored	Baptized	Ex. Com.	Dis. by Letter	Died	Total Number	Licensed to Preach	Ass'n Funds	Gave Pastor	Sabbath School	Prayer Meeting	League	Ladies Aid	Value of Church Property
Corinth	W. A. Sellers	F. W. Cordell	Iron City, Ga.	2	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	60	0	18.75	160.00	yes	0	yes	0	\$3,000
Friendship	C. A. Gilbert	Mrs. Annie Parr	Colquitt, Ga.		0	0	0	0	0	3	0	25	0	3.55	40.00	0	0	0	0	
New Salem	H. L. Catrett	Richard Davis	Colquitt, Ga.	1	1	5	0	4	1	0	3	147	0	14.70	152.74	yes	yes	yes	yes	\$1,000
New Home No. 1	H. L. Catrett	W. E. Lane	Iron City, Ga.	4	1	4	2	4	0	0	0	117	0		127.00	yes	0	0		\$1,250
Springfield	J. M. Barnes	C. B. Reece	Jakin, Ga.	3	0	2	0	2	0	0	1	29	0	3.00	42.25	0	0	0	0	\$1,250
Belview	H. L. Catrett	Mary Brown	Colquitt, Ga.	3	2	0	0	0	0	1	4	183	0	18.30	127.37	yes	0	0	0	\$1,250
Hammock Spgs.	D. Floyd	Mrs. B. B. Barber	Donalsonville, Ga	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	26	0	2.60	43.76	0	0	0	0	\$1,500
Thompson	H. L. Catrett	Mrs. Linda Powell	Colquitt, Ga.	3	1	0	0	0	0	0		65	0	6.50	58.70	yes	0	0	0	\$1,500
New Home No. 2	A. J. Tomlinson	Dock Kelly	Climax, Ga.	1	0	1	0	3	0	0	0	75	0	12.50	24.00	0	yes	0	0	\$500
Hebrew	A. B. Ard	W. C. Atkinson	Donalsonville, Ga	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	71	0	7.10	68.58	0	0	0	0	\$600
Mothers Home	D. Floyd	H. R. Miller	Colquitt, Ga.	3	2	3	1	3	2	0	0	46	0	4.60		0	3	0	0	\$1,500
Mt. Gilead	W. H. Hand	Willie Vickers	Brinson, Ga.	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	35	0	3.50	57.23	0	0	0	0	\$600
Highway	A. B. Ard	Willie Everett	Brinson, Ga.	1	1	0	1	9	9	2	2	47	0	5.00	85.51	yes	yes	0	0	\$1000
Pilgrims Home	H. L. Catrett	J. T. Hilburne	Baker County	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	51	0	5.10	76.00	0	0	0	0	\$2,509
Mt. Glory	D. Floyd	Mrs. W. Portervint	Quincy, Fla.	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	25	0	2.50	58.08	yes	yes	0	0	\$600
Cool Springs	Lindsey Scott	Laura Hyatt	Bainbridge, Ga.	2-43	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	15	1	5.00	38.00	0	0	0	0	\$1000