

MINUTES
of the
58th ANNUAL SESSION
of the
**MARTIN FREE-WILL BAPTIST
ASSOCIATION**
AT
MT. GILEAD CHURCH
BAINBRIDGE, DECATUR COUNTY, GEORGIA
OCTOBER 20 AND 21, 1944

OFFICERS

JOHN E. DRAKE, Moderator -----Bainbridge, Georgia
WE. E. LANE, Secretary-Treasurer-----Iron City, Georgia

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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

Next session to convene with Cool Springs Church, Decatur
County, Georgia, Friday before the 4th Sunday in October, 1945.

Rev. A. J. Tomlinson to preach Introductory Sermon. Rev.
C. A. Gilbert, Alternate.

MINUTES

PROCEEDINGS

Friday: Song and praise service led by Rev. H. L. Catrett. Opening song, "Won't It Be Wonderful There." Prayer by Rev. Bruce Clenney. Welcome address by Sister Willie Vickers. Response by Brother W. R. Barber. Moderator's message. Scripture taken from II Kings, chapter 23.

The credential committee was appointed as follows: W. L. Cleveland, W. O. Smith and J. T. Hilburn.

After song and praise service Rev. Drew Floyd brought the 11:00 o'clock message. His subject, "Behold, the Lamb of God which taketh away the sins of the world," followed by prayer by Brother E. C. Williams.

NOON HOUR

1:30: Devotional by Rev. W. H. Horn, prayer by Brother A. J. Tomlinson. Special prayer for former Moderators, Rev. E. A. Drake, led by Rev. H. L. Cartrett. 2:00 business period. Report of Credential Committee. (See report.)

It was moved and carried that the delegates from the various churches with their letters be seated in this association.

Brother W. L. Cleveland and Brother J. T. Hilburn were appointed to read the letters from the various churches. The churches were enrolled as follows:

Corinth: W. O. Smith, W. B. Cross, Bob Howard and J. E. Dawson.

New Salem: W. R. Barber, D. J. Roland, Carey Williams and their wives.

New Home: No. 1. Will Lambert, Howard Roberts, John West, Ike Ard and wife.

Springfield: C. B. Reese and wife.

Friendship: Bill Parr and wife, A. B. Newberry and John Grubbs.

Bellview: Oscar Brunson and wife, Henry Ellis and wife, Carroll Brown and wife, C. C. Kimbrel and wife and Mrs. Tenella Cleveland.

Hammock Springs: W. M. Barber and wife and G. W. J. Barber.

Hebrew: Mrs. W. H. Horn and Miss Emma Jean Horn.

Mt. Gilead: Mrs. Willie Vickers and Mrs. Minnie Boyle.

Highway: C. C. Bell and wife and Gordon Mills.

Thompson: Henry Miller, C. B. Givens, Mrs. Linda Powell, and Mrs. Lucille Josey.

Pilgrim's Home: P. B., J. T., and W. G. Hilburn.

Mt. Glory: By letter.

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

Mother's Home: Mrs. Annie Tully and Mrs. Eula Musgrove.

New Home No. 2: Ed Avery, J. Avery and I. B. Saddler.

Call for Petitioning Letters. None received.

Correspondents from other Associations: Midway: E. C. Williams, A. D. Ivey and Miss Dot Harvey.

Next session to convene Wednesday and Thursday before the first Sunday in November, 1944 at Live Oak Church, Baker County, Georgia.

Rev. B. W. Clenney, Rev. C. J. Harvey and wife from Union Association.

Next session to convene Wednesday and Thursday before the 4th Sunday in October, 1945, at New Hope Church, eight miles south of Moultrie, Georgia.

It was moved and carried that the correspondents from the Associations be given the right hand of fellowship by the moderator.

The usual committees were appointed by the Moderator.

Sabbath School: Mrs. Effie Kimbrel, Mrs. W. E. Land and W. G. Hilburn.

Sabbath Observance: Rev. D. Floyd, W. B. Cross and John West.

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

Resolutions: Committee: Rev. H. L. Catrett, W. L. Cleveland, Rev. D. Floyd, W. O. Smith and Ike Ard.

Executive Committee: Not changed.

Nomination Committee: J. C. Roberts, C. B. Reese, W. B. Cross, W. W. Blunt, and Carey Williams.

Investigations: W. O. Brunson, Mrs. W. W. Blunt, Mrs. C. C. Bell, Henry Miller and Mrs. Willie Vickers.

Obituaries: Rev. H. L. Catrett, Rev. D. Floyd, Mrs. W. R. Barber, Mrs. Minnie Boyd and John Taylor.

Temperance: Miss Tenella Cleveland, I. B. Saddler, Mrs. Annie Tully, Mrs. Rubye Sheffield and Rev. C. C. Cato.

Arrangements: Pastor and all Deacons of Mt. Gilead Church.

Education: W. L. Cleveland, Rev. H. L. Catrett and Rev. Drew Floyd.

Suggestions: Mrs. Effie Kimbrel, J. C. Roberts, Rev. E. M. Brackett, W. L. Cleveland and W. R. Barber.

Superannuation: W. L. Cleveland, W. B. Cross and J. C. Roberts.

It was moved and carried that W. L. Cleveland be elected to serve with the State Superannuation Board.

Report from Chairman of Mission Board. (See report.)

Report of Superannuation Board. (See report.)

Report of Treasurer. (See report.)

Report from the State Association: By J. E. Drake and he reported the good work of the State Association.

Recessed until 9:30, Saturday, October 21, 1944.

SATURDAY MORNING SESSION

Song service. Prayer by A. D. Ivey. Renewed call for correspondents and received Bro. A. D. Ivey from Midway, also Miss Dot Harvey from Midway. Called for ministers report. (See report.)

Appointed Correspondents to other Associations:

Midway: Rev. Drew Floyd and Rev. C. C. Cato.

State line of Alabama: Rev. Drew Floyd and Rev. W. H. Horn.

Chattahoochee Association: Rev. H. L. Catrett and Rev. J. E. Drake, Georgia Union: By minute.

Union of Georgia: Rev. A. J. Tomlinson, Ira Saddler and Rev. H. L. Catrett. The Church decorum and Doctrinal Views were read.

The next Sunday School Convention convenes with New Salem Church on the 1st Sunday in April, 1945.

Delegates to State Association: W. L. Cleveland and W. E. Lane. It was moved and carried that the clerk pay to the delegates 1-2 cent

per capita for membership fee to the State Association and also \$5.00 to pay membership fee to the National Association. It was moved and carried that the Association pay the expenses of the delegates appointed to go to the National Association. Those appointed were: W. L. Cleveland and W. R. Barber.

Heard Committee Reports which were received and adopted. The Association recessed for 5 minutes.

After recess the 11:00 o'clock message was brought by Rev. H. L. Catrett, after which the Association dismissed for the noon hour.

At 1:30 the Association was called to order by the Moderator. Song service and prayer led by A. B. Ard, the Association resumed the business part of the Association. Rev. Drew Floyd was appointed District Evangelist and to report to the Association annually. By request of the Moderator the money paid to him for his services was given to the Superannuation Board.

The same officers of the Association were appointed for the next year. It was moved and carried that the same ordaining counsel be appointed, namely: E. A. Drake, L. D. Scott, 1 year; H. L. Catrett, 2 years; A. B. Ard, 3 years; J. E. Drake, 4 years.

Called for Ministers report. Rev. H. L. Catrett reported.

Report of Committees received and Committees relieved except such committees as held over until the next session, namely: Sabbath School, Sabbath Observance, Program Committee, Education Committee, Investigating Committee, Temperance Committee, Resolutions Committee, Obituaries Committee, Suggestions Committee, Nominations Committee.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance on Hand	\$ 63.43
Paid in from various Churches	151.70
Paid Out: To Clerk	\$ 15.00
To Moderator	10.00
To Superannuation Board	50.27
State Association fee	5.00
National Association fee	5.00
Paid out for printing and mailing minutes	
Balance on hand	

REPORT OF SUPERANNUATION BOARD

Receipts		Disbursements	
Union Meetings:		To Superannuates	\$13.50
October, 1943	\$13.50		6.78
January, 1944	6.78		19.70
April, 1944	19.70		18.52
July, 1944	18.52	Paid State Treasurer	14.00
From Budget Plan	14.00		6.60
New Home Sunday School	6.60		
		Total	\$79.10
Total	\$79.10		
Association Funds	\$53.00	Paid E. A. Drake	10.00
Balance on hand	43.00		

Report of Mission Board

Martin Free-Will Baptist Association Union meetings:

October, 1943	\$13.50
January, 1944	6.78
April, 1944	19.70
Credit for Budget Plan	18.68
New Home Ladies Aux.	4.50
February, New Salem	3.22
June, New Salem	4.06
August, New Salem	3.80
August, New Salem	3.00
October, New Salem	3.63
New Home Sunday School	8.80

Total \$89.67

It was moved and carried that the next session meet with Cool Springs Church, 12 miles south of Bainbridge, Georgia, on the Quincy Highway, the 26th and 27th of October, 1945, with Rev. A. J. Tomlinson preaching the Introductory Sermon and Rev. C. A. Gilbert as Alternate. A freewill offering of \$71.50 was made and given to Mt. Gilead Church to repair their church building. Shook parting hands and adjourned to meet next with Cool Springs Church, Bainbridge, Georgia, Friday before the 4th Sunday in October, 1945.

J. E. DRAKE, Moderator.

W. E. LANE, Secretary and Treasurer.

SABBATH SCHOOL

We, your committee, give this report on Sabbath Schools: We recommend that if there are any churches which do not have a good Sunday School that you organize one at once. You need it and your children need it. If you wait to give your children this training until they are in teen age they will not have it then. So organize one and start them yourself.

Respectfully submitted,

EFFIE KIMBREL, Chairman

MRS. WILLIE LANE

W. G. HILBURN

NOMINATIONS

We, your Committee on Nominations, recommend that the Association convene with Cool Springs Church, 12 miles south of Bainbridge, Georgia, on the Quincy Highway with Rev. A. J. Tomlinson preaching the Introductory Sermon and Rev. C. A. Gilbert as Alternate. We further recommend as officers: John E. Drake, Moderator; W. E. Lane, Secretary and Treasurer; Ordaining Council: Rev. E. A. Drake, Rev. H. L. Catrett, Rev. J. E. Drake, Rev. A. B. Ard and Rev. L. D. Scott.

By:

C. A. WILLIAMS

W. B. CROSS

C. B. REESE

W. W. BLOUNT

SABBATH OBSERVANCE

We, your committee on Sabbath Observance, recommend the following: That we as a people of God observe the Sabbath more perfectly in refraining from all work or pleasure that does not promote the cause of our Lord Jesus Christ and his Kingdom and that we attend all religious services possible.

Respectfully,

J. W. WEST

W. B. CROSS

DREW FLOYD

SUGGESTIONS COMMITTEE

We suggest that each of our churches make regular quarterly donations for our Programs, Missions, Superannuation, Education. We also suggest that we adopt the church letter recommended by the State Association. That we have more complete reports. We also suggest that Rev. Drew Floyd be appointed District Evangelist.

Respectfully,

MRS. EFFIE KIMBREL

E. M. BROCKETT

W. L. CLEVELAND

TEMPERANCE COMMITTEE

The report on Temperance. We earnestly request our churches as a whole to be strictly temperate in all things. Wine is a mocker; strong drink is raging and whosoever is deceived there by is not wise. It will bring grief; it will bring sorrow; poverty. It lost a battle; it lost a kingdom; it will cause you to lose Eternal life. We ask all of you preachers of the Association to be much in prayer and urge that each church member abstain from strong drink.

IRA SADDLER, Chairman.

TEMPERANCE CONTINUED

Brother Moderator and Brothers: I wish to try to tell you something of the evils of liquor. We know the world's greatest evil is war, but we know that the next greatest sin is strong drinks, such as wine, beer and whiskey. War is fought in the open but liquor strikes in the dark. It aims at America's most precious asset, youth. We as parents and Christian workers should be very much concerned about the evils of strong drink.

We hear a lot these days about defense. Building of ships and ammunition and the training of our young people. There is another defense we should work for; that is, the protection of our young people against the things that harm the mind, body and soul.

Liquor is like the demons that possessed a man in Jesus' day. When he commanded them to come out they said: "What have we to do with thee"? They did not want to be brought face to face with virtue, with conviction, facts and a pure life. The question we face is how can we best deal with this liquor problem. We realize it is a grave problem, no good can come of it, we would be far better off without it, and we know it is a great robber of virtue, vitality, social security, health and wealth. We as Christians should be willing to do something about it.

First, we should be determined not to use it in any form. Our influence means much. We don't know who is watching our lives. We should always stand for the right, co-operate with movements fighting the evils of liquor. Most of all we should lay hold of the resources of God—with the help of God, it is possible for us to do anything we desire. Every preacher, home maker, every Christian and every organization that believes that liquor is an evil should pray earnestly for God to stir our hearts and hasten the day when we will be free of this terrible thing called liquor. We know that prayer changes things. All that God is and all that God has is at the disposal of prayer.

Drinking Mother Leaves Baby in Phone Booth: "A new wrinkle in the current wave of child abandonment cases was added to police files," says the Chicago Daily News, when a 24-year-old mother had such a good time on a recent Saturday night that she left her 15-month-old daughter in a saloon telephone booth. Leaving the saloon at 1:00 a. m. with her drinking companion, she claimed she did not miss her infant until she awoke in her home early the following morning. She was sentenced to one year imprisonment.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

We, your committee on resolutions, beg to make the following recommendations:

1. That this Association elect a Superannuation Board, consisting of three members, each to hold office for a period of three years, the first one to be elected for one year, the second one to serve two years, the third one to serve a term of three years, thereafter, one member each year to serve a term of three years.

2. That this Board be in charge of all the Superannuation Activities, determining who shall be superannuated and distribution to the same.

3. That this Board work out a plan whereby they can make a small monthly allowance to the aged ministers instead of once a year. Also that they retain or endeavor to retain in the treasury a small emergency fund for sickness and other emergencies.

4. Resolve that we pay our moderator \$10.00 and the Clerk \$15.00 for their services. Also resolve to extend a rising vote of thanks to Mt. Gilead Church and Community for their hospitality during this session.

Respectfully,

REV. H. L. CATRETT, Chairman.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

We, your committee on Education, beg to submit the following:

1. Since Sunday School and League are both educational and instructive, we, therefore, urge each of our churches to arrange and maintain both. Thereby giving to young and old the Christian education and influence for better and higher service.

2. That this association unite with and in the activities of the F. W. B. training camp since there are educational enterprises that can be had through the training camp that cannot be had this side of some Bible School.

3. That we support liberally with our means, the F. W. B. College.
Also encourage students to attend the same.

Respectfully submitted,

REV. H. L. CATRETT, Chairman.

OBITUARIES COMMITTEE

We, your committee on obituaries, beg to submit: Under the protection of our all wise and benevolent Providence, the hand of death has been stayed and only a few have fallen under grip of this monster.

Those who have fallen in the heat of the battle are listed as follows:

Bellview Church: Brother W. A. Rhames.

New Salem: C. J. Gilbert, Sister Missouri Gilbert.

Mother's Home: Brother Columbus Knight.

Cool Springs: Sister Margaret Floyd.

New Home No. 2: Brother Sam Saddler.

Hebrew: Sister Betty Robinson.

We regret the loss of these precious souls, but bow in humble submission to our heavenly Father's will and say, "Thy will be done."

Respectfully submitted,

REV. H. L. CATRETT, Chairman.

MINISTERIAL REPORT

I have pastored the following churches: New Salem, Oak Grove, Pilgrims Home, Thompson, Bellview and New Home No. 1.

I have attended the following associations: Georgia State Association, Midway Association, Union Association. Attended 6 Union Meetings, 2 Ladies Auxiliary Conventions, 2 Sunday School Conventions, 3 State Board meetings, 3 sessions of the Ministers Training Union, 3 memorial services, 1 service for Polio Drive (Infantile Paralysis), taught 3 singing schools, held one service for state prisoners, performed 12 marriage contracts and conducted or attended the following funerals:

1. Nov. 21, 1943	Mrs. Lou Duce	Oak Grove Church	25 miles
2. Dec. 5, 1943	J. P. (Pete) Cook	Pilgrim's Rest Church	25 miles
3. Dec. 29, 1943	Mrs. Mary Sikes Jones	Tabb Cemetery	25 miles
4. Jan. 1, 1944	Lizzie Toole	Springfield Church	50 miles
5. Jan. 7, 1944	Mrs. Laura Brown	(Cottonwod, Ala.)	80 miles
		Howard's Grove Church	
6. Jan. 8, 1944	Mrs. Fannie Hart	Kynesville, Fla.	130 miles
7. Jan. 11, 1944	Mrs. Drew Roberts	Rawls Cemetery	20 miles
8. Jan. 12, 1944	Louise Joiner	Cross Roads Cemetery	40 miles
9. Jan. 16, 1944	Mrs. Nancy Pope	Bethel, Decatur County	40 miles
10. Jan. 26, 1944	John Chambers	Cedar Springs	50 miles
11. Jan. 26, 1944	Jack Grimes	Mothers Home Church	30 miles
12. Feb. 2, 1944	John M. Carter	Corinth Church	40 miles
13. Feb. 18, 1944	Mrs. Missouri Gilbert	New Salem (Union)	20 miles
14. Mch. 9, 1944	Mrs. Rebecca Guest	Rawls Cemetery	20 miles
15. Mch. 12, 1944	Marvin Griffin	Belview Church	20 miles
16. Mch. 19, 1944	Baby—Odis McVay's	Lane Cemetery	18 miles
17. Mch. 20, 1944	Mrs. Betty Cowart	M. B. Union	20 miles

18.	Mch. 24, 1944	Mrs. T. R. Bryan	Mothers Home	18 miles
19.	Mch. 24, 1944	Janice Poole	Macedonia Church	20 miles
20.	Mch. 25, 1944	Baby—John Peace	Live Oak Church	40 miles
21.	Apr. 1, 1944	Mrs. Laura Stanton	Damascus, Ga.	30 miles
22.	Apr. 2, 1944	J. H. Buckner	Keaton Cemetery	30 miles
23.	Apr. 15, 1944	R. E. Fudge	Colquitt (at the home)	12 miles
24.	Apr. 26, 1944	Roy Eager Davis	P. B. Union Church	20 miles
25.	Apr. 29, 1944	C. J. Gilbert	New Salem Church	18 miles
26.	May 11, 1944	Cpl. Charlie Grimes	Colquitt Funeral Home	12 miles
27.	May 18, 1944	Robert Shutes	Dothan, Ala.	100 miles
28.	May 28, 1944	Lt. Edgar Lane	P. B. Union Church	20 miles
29.	June 4, 1944	C. W. Musgrove	Travelers Rest Church	40 miles
30.	June 8, 1944	L. L. Houston	Oak Grove Church	30 miles
31.	June 8, 1944	Mrs. Amanda Alday	Corinth Church	30 miles
32.	June 11, 1944	Baby, Virgil Gay	Roberts Cemetery	30 miles
33.	June 15, 1944	W. A. Rhames	Bellview Church	25 miles
34.	June 21, 1944	Clifton Harris	P. B. Bethel Church	40 miles
35.	June 22, 1944	Mrs. J. A. Phillips	Colquitt Methodist	5 miles
36.	June 22, 1944	Mrs. Ben Powers	Belview Church	25 miles
37.	July 1, 1944	Mrs. White	M. B. Union Church	25 miles
38.	July 7, 1944	Baby, Pvt. and Mrs. Joe Brown	M. B. Union Church	25 miles
39.	July 8, 1944	S. G. Kelley	New Salem Church	20 miles
40.	July 8, 1944	Lewis Hatcher	Bethel (Decatur Co.)	40 miles
41.	July 12, 1944	Baby, Lamar Josey's	Bethel (Decatur Co.)	40 miles
42.	July 26, 1944	Child, O'neal Phillips'	Pilgrim's Rest	20 miles
43.	Aug. 5, 1944	Robt. Lee Whitaker	Pleasant View	25 miles
44.	Aug. 16, 1944	Rochelle B. Cook	Assembly of God Ch., Colquitt, Ga.	10 miles
45.	Aug. 24, 1944	Mrs. Sam (Emma) Gordon	Gordon Cemetery	20 miles
46.	Aug. 26, 1944	Baby, Ezza Cason	M. B. Union Church	25 miles
47.	Aug. 31, 1944	Will Z. Rooks	Christ Church	50 miles
48.	Sept. 4, 1944	Mrs. Leonard Smith	Live Oak Church	40 miles
49.	Sept. 11, 1944	Child, Joe Gibson's	Houston Cemetery	40 miles
50.	Sept. 13, 1944	L. C. Campbell	M. B. Union Church	25 miles
51.	Sept. 17, 1944	Mrs. Eager Bush	Oak Grove, Rbts. Cem.	25 miles
52.	Sept. 19, 1944	Mrs. J. F. Gray	Gordon Cemetery	20 miles
53.	Sept. 26, 1944	Esther Mae Henry	Gordon Cemetery	20 miles

Have preached 358 sermons; baptized 16 candidates; traveled 12,995 miles and received in round figures \$875.00.

H. L. CATRETT.

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.
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.
C. C. CATO, Colquitt, Ga., R. F. D. No. 5

LICENTATE MINISTERS

J. E. MUSIC, Donalsonville, Ga.
N. L. LAMB, Climax, Ga.
D. KELLEY, Whigham, Ga.
W. K. WILSON, Bainbridge, Ga.
HARRY BELL, Brinson, 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 seats 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. Apoint 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 in 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 recreation 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.

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 brother.

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 such cases.

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 follows: 1. Inviting visiting brethren to seats. 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 brother 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 are 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.

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 Christian 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 world 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 superintending jurisdiction by delegation or otherwise the assembly ceases to be a gospel church.

6. 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 compact, of 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 the 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 Lord's 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.

2. 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.

3. 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 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 questions of discipline, and in case of a tie, 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 expense 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 discreate 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 Christian like 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 or 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 1945	CLERKS FOR 1945	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	B. W. Clenney	F. W. Cordell	Iron City, Ga.	2	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	60	0	\$6.00	\$150.00	0	0	0	0	\$3,000
Friendship	C. C. Cato	Mrs. Annie Parr	Colquitt, Ga.	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	30	0	3.75	51.86	0	0	0	0	\$ 500
New Salem	H. L. Catrett	Richard Davis	Colquitt, Ga.	1	3	3	0	3	1	0	2	150	0	15.00	146.58	yes	0	yes	yes	\$1,000
New Home No. 1	B. W. Clenney	W. E. Lane	Iron City, Ga.	4	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	116	0	11.60	100.20	yes	0	0	yes	\$1,250
Springfield	W. H. Horn	C. B. Reece	Jakin, Ga.	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	27	0	3.00	60.05	0	0	0	0	\$1,250
Belview	H. L. Catrett	Mary Brown	Colquitt, Ga.	3	3	7	1	7	0	1	1	185	0	19.50	180.00	yes	yes	0	yes	\$1,250
Hammock Spgs.	J. E. Music	Mrs. B. B. Barber	Donalsonville, Ga.	1	0	6	2	6	0	0	0	32	0	13.35	76.52	yes	yes	0	0	\$1,800
Thompson	L. D. Scott	James Ogg	Colquitt, Ga.	3	1	0	1	0	0	2	0	65	0	6.50	96.73	0	0	0	0	\$1,500
New Home No. 2	A. J. Tomlinson	Dock Kelly	Climax, Ga.	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	69	0	7.00	39.00	0	0	0	0	\$ 500
Hebrew	E. M. Brockett	W. C. Atkinson	Donalsonville, Ga.	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	68	0	6.80	39.47	0	0	0	0	\$ 600
Mothers Home	D. Floyd	H. R. Miller	Colquitt, Ga.	3	0	2	0	2	0	0	1	41	0	4.10	47.41	yes	0	0	0	\$1,500
Mt. Gilead	W. H. Horn	R. G. Vickers	Brinson, Ga.	4	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	36	0	5.00	68.03	0	yes	0	0	\$ 600
Highway	A. B. Ard	Willie Everett	Brinson, Ga.	3	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	47	2	7.00	121.42	yes	0	0	0	\$1,000
Pilgrims Home	H. L. Catrett	J. T. Hilburne	Baker County	2	0	4	0	3	0	0	0	46	0	4.60	141.00	0	0	0	0	\$2,509
Mt. Glory	J. E. Music	Mrs. W. Portervint	Quincy, Fla.	4	0	2	0	2	0	2	0	25	0	5.50	52.80	yes	0	0	0	\$ 800
Cool Springs	Lindsey Scott	Laura Hyatt	Bainbridge, Ga.	2-4	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	18	0	5.00	100.71	yes	yes	0	0	\$1,000