

dup
MINUTES OF THE FIRST

SESSION

Mississippi State Association

OF

Free Will Baptists



**Convened with Damascus Church
Kemper County, Mississippi
April 16th-17th, 1942**



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12 miles east of RICHTON, Greene County, Mississippi,
on Thursday and Friday before the Third Sunday in
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On Thursday, April 16th, 1942 a delegation of Free Will Baptists from Northeast and Southeast Mississippi met at Damascus Church in Kemper County and organized themselves into a State Association. Delegations meeting were from Zion's Rest Association and Northeast Mississippi Association.

Rev. George Lee was selected by a Pulpit Committee to bring the opening message at 11:00 a. m. Thursday. Rev. Lee brought an inspiring message using as a Text James 1:12.

Adjourned for lunch which was served by the ladies in the lunch room of the High School.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

The body met by singing and prayer. The house was called to order by Rev. M. L. Hollis, of Red Bay, Alabama, who called for nominations for Moderator and Clerk pro-tem which resulted in the election of Rev. Hollis as moderator and J. C. Roberts as Clerk with Rev. Lee as assistant to the clerk.

The roll of churches from the above named association were called and delegates reported from the following:

East Tupelo—L. E. Duncan and J. C. Roberts.

Columbus—D. Hollis and Mrs. Troy Waldon.

Gauley—Jack Parker and W. A. Calder.

Bethlehem—Henry Ard.

Union Hill—Elzey Harris.

Priceville—J. M. Haas.

Damascus—J. E. Smith, C. C. McKee and D. L. Warren.

Lee's Chapel—A. W. Stephenson and C. H. Hollifield.

Lovewell—Allen Walley, Kyrles Walley and Leither Walley.

Pine Grove—W. A. Mason.

Thompson's Creek—Elmo Bayne.

Smith's Chapel—Christian Bazor and Fannie Mills.

List of Ministers and their addresses:

Rev. M. L. Hollis, Red Bay, Ala.

Rev. G. M. Pearson, Laurel, Miss. Rt. No. 1

Rev. J. M. Haas, Tupelo, Miss.

Rev. George C. Lee, Calhoun City, Miss.

Rev. C. M. Jenkins, Richton, Miss. Rt. 1.

Having listed the delegates and ministers there was a move made and duly seconded that we form a permanent organization. It was unanimously carried that we proceed with the permanent organizing

by electing officers. The following were elected:

Rev. M. L. Hollis, Moderator.

Rev. G. M. Pearson, Vice Moderator.

Rev. George C. Lee, Clerk.

Bro. J. C. Roberts, Assistant clerk.

Bro. L. E. Duncan, Treasurer.

The moderator was authorized by the body to appoint a Constitutional Committee which was to present to the body while in session, and for its approval, a constitution for the organization. The committee was as follows:

W. A. Mason and G. M. Pearson of the Zion's Rest Association, L. E. Duncan with the Moderator and Clerk.

Pulpit Committee appointed as follows: Allen Walley, Jack Parker, W. A. Mason with the Deacons of Damascus Church.

Resolution Committee: Revs. C. M. Jenkins and G. M. Pearson, Bro. L. E. Duncan.

The pulpit at this time made a partial report as follows: Rev. Jenkins to preach at 3:00 p. m. After a short intermission Rev. Jenkins brought a forceful message using as his Text: "I am the vine ye are the branches."

The following churches paid for the expenses of this session of the Association, the amount placed following their names:

Columbus	\$2.00
East Tupelo	2.00
Damascus	2.00
Gauley	2.00
Lee's Chapel	2.00
Lovewell	2.00
Pine Grove	2.00
Priceville	2.00
Smith's Chapel	2.00
Union Hill	1.00
Thompson's Creek	2.00
Total	\$21.00

Other churches of the Northeast Mississippi Association are asked to forward \$2.00 to the treasurer as soon as possible, also the other church in Zion Rest Association.

Complete report of Pulpit Committee: We recommend that Rev. George Lee preach Thursday morning at 11:00 o'clock, Rev. C. M. Jenkins at 3:00 o'clock Thursday afternoon, Rev. M. L. Hollis at 8:30 Thursday evening and Rev. G. M. Pearson Friday morning at 11:00 o'clock.

Signed by Committee.

Song services for devotions and preaching hours were led by the following: D. Hollis, Leither Walley, Henry Ard, C. M. Jenkins and George Lee.

The business session was adjourned to meet again Friday morning at nine o'clock. Supper was served at the High School lunch room.

Rev. Hollis brought the evening message from the first four verses of John 14th chapter. This message was a stirring one and at the close many came to the altar for prayer and all were strengthened.

FRIDAY MORNING SESSION

The body assembled by singing led by Bro. Lee and prayer by Bro. Jenkins. Minutes of previous session read and approved.

The Constitutional Committee made its report and after reading and re-reading by sections the proposed constitution offered the body adopted the one appearing in this minute.

An Executive Board was elected as follows: Bro. W. A. Mason from Wayne County for one year, Bro. D. Hollis from Lowndes County for two years, Bro. W. G. Prude from Lee County for three years, Bro. Allen Walley from Greene County for four years with the Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer.

Report of Resolution Committee: We, your committee on Resolutions, beg leave to make the following report. 1st. That the next session of The Mississippi Association be held with Lovewell church, 12 miles east of Richton, Miss., in Greene County. 2nd. That the next session be held Thursday and Friday before the Third Sunday in October 1942. 3rd. That we extend to Damascus Church and community our heartfelt thanks for their friendly and efficient manner of entertaining the delegates and visitors while we were in their midst. May God's richest benedictions ever rest upon them.

Signed by Committee.

The above resolutions were unanimously adopted by a rising vote of the body.

The following named delegates were appointed to represent the Mississippi State Association at the National Association, which meets with Columbus Church of the Northeast Mississippi Association July 13-18 1942:

Allen D. Walley Richton, Miss., W. A. Mason, Buccatuna, Miss., Mrs. Troy Waldon, Columbus, Miss., J. E. Smith, DeKalb, Miss., and L. E. Duncan, Tupelo, Miss.

Rev. G. M. Pearson filled the pulpit at 11:00 o'clock and brought the closing message of this the first session of The Mississippi State Association, bringing a wonderful message from God's word on "The glories of the Crown of Glory". Then with the singing of some grand old hymns we were adjourned until we meet (God Willing) with the good people of Lovewell Church in October.

CONSTITUTION OF THE MISSISSIPPI STATE ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS

PREAMBLE: The Mississippi State Association of Free Will Baptists is designed to consolidate the efforts of the different associations of the state; to harmonize the work; to unify the sentiment of the common cause of the redeemer; and by a fraternal interchange of views among their members, to promote the cause of the denomination and stimulate a growth in grace and in the knowledge of gospel truth.

Article 1—Name.

This body shall be known henceforth as The Mississippi State Association of Free Will Baptists.

Article 2—Purpose.

The object of this association shall be to more thoroughly unify the work of the various associations of Mississippi and to devise and execute measures for the extension of Christ's kingdom in connection with the various associations comprising this organization.

Article 3—Membership.

This association shall be composed of the various associations of the above named state when joined to this association in duly constituted ways.

Article 4—Delegation.

Each association shall be allowed three delegates, to the annual meeting of the state association, from each of their respective, local

churches. Each ordained minister, in good standing in his respective churches and association, shall have the same privilege as a duly elected delegate.

Article 5—Discipline.

The State Association shall have the right to settle any question of discipline, doctrine or usage that may properly come before it from time to time from any of the Associations composing the said State Association, or act upon any appeal that may be made by any of the associations belonging to the State Association; said appeal shall have been written and signed by the Association making the appeal, then forwarded by mail or in person to the State Association. The State Association shall not usurp any of the powers of the local associations or any church within any association.

Article 6—Officers.

The officers of the association shall consist of a Moderator an assistant Moderator, a Clerk, an assistant Clerk and a Treasurer, each of whom shall be nominated from the floor at each regular meeting. Election shall be determined by a majority of those present and voting. All officers shall hold office until their successor is elected and installed.

Article 7—Executive Board. Sec. 1.

The Executive Board shall be composed of seven members, three of whom shall be the moderator, the clerk and the treasurer of the State Association and four which shall be elected from the floor of the association, the terms to run from one to four years for the first four elected, then one member to be elected every year.

Section 2. Duties of Executive Board: 1st. To act for the association in matters that demand consideration between the regular annual sessions of the association. 2nd. To fill vacancies in the association that may occur by death, resignation or otherwise between regular sessions of the association. 3rd. To make written reports of its work to the next regular session of the association.

Article 8—Boards and Committees.

The association shall have as many Boards and Committees as it thinks necessary to carry out the program it may determine to promote in connection with the National Association.

Article 9—Finance.

Annual dues shall be in the amount of FIVE CENTS per member for each member in the respective churches of each local association.

Article 10—Legal representation.

Each delegation to the State Association shall be required to present its credentials, together with a report of the work from the body they represent, to a duly elected Credential Committee.

Article 11—Parliamentary Laws.

The members of this association shall be governed by the standard parliamentary rules and usages of deliberative bodies.

Article 12—Meetings.

The association shall hold its regular meetings annually at such time and place as determined at the last regular session and made known before adjournment. Special meetings may be called by the Executive Board in case of extreme necessity provided the clerk of each local association has been advised at least 15 days prior to such meeting. Fifteen legal delegates shall constitute a quorum for the special meeting of the association.

Article 13—

This Constitution may be amended at any regular session of the State Association by a two-thirds vote of the members present, provided the change is recommended in writing on the day before the vote is taken.

CHURCH LETTER TO STATE ASSOCIATION

We, the Free Will Baptists of _____ Church in, or
 near _____ send greetings to _____
 Annual session of The Mississippi State Association of Free Will
 Baptists, when convened with _____ Church on
 Thursday before the third Sunday in October 194____. We send as
 delegates to represent us in your Honorable Body the following named
 Brothers and Sisters in Christ _____

Praying that all you may do may be for the furtherance of God's
 Kingdom here on earth.

CHURCH STATISTICS: Number of members received since last ses-
 sion _____; Number members lost since last session _____;
 Total membership _____.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT: Value of Church property \$ _____;
 Value of Parsonage \$ _____; Indebtedness on Church Pro-
 perty \$ _____; Indebtedness on Parsonage \$ _____;
 Paid Pastor \$ _____; Paid Evangelist \$ _____; Paid
 on buildings and or repairs \$ _____; Paid for Missions
 \$ _____; Education \$ _____; Benevolences \$ _____;
 Incidentals \$ _____; Total Expenditures \$ _____; We
 are sending \$ _____ for State Association Funds.

AUXILIARY WORK: Sunday School Enrollment _____;
 League Enrollment _____; Ladies Aid Enrollment _____;
 Remarks: _____

This done in Church Conference on _____
 _____ 194_____.

Moderator _____ Address _____

Clerk _____ Address _____

Countersigned by officers of local association of which we are a
 member.

Moderator _____ Address _____

Clerk _____ Address _____