

MINUTES
OF
SECOND ANNUAL SESSION
Mississippi State Association
of
Free Will Baptists



Convened with
ANTIOCH CHURCH
Pontotoc County

November 18—19, 1943



Next Session to Convene with Lee's Chapel Church, Jones
County, 9 Miles East of Laurel, On Thursday
→ and Friday before Third Sunday in
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THURSDAY MORNING SESSION

The Second Annual Session of the State Association met with Antioch Church, Pontotoc County, near Toccopola.

The session opened with song services led by Rev. George C. Lee; prayer led by Rev. J. M. Haas

Rev. M. L. Hollis, Moderator, being absent due to funeral services, Rev. Haas was elected Moderator pro-tem and took up the pre-arranged program.

Rev. D. U. Bishop in charge of opening devotions, read from 103rd division of Psalms. Prayer by Rev. R. B. Crawford of Ashland City, Tenn.

Rev. G. C. Lee, pastor of host church extended to all visitors and delegates a very warm welcome to Antioch church and community. Response by L. E. Duncan. Bro. Prude directed the congregation in a short song service.

Moderator called for letters from churches, the following being represented by letter and delegates: Antioch, Bethlehem, Columbus, Depriest Chapel, East Tupelo, Gauley, Pleasant Grove, Priceville, Stetson Chapel, Springdale, Union Hill and Lee's Chapel, Wayne County. By Letter: Corinth, Beech Springs, Pearce Chapel, Pine Grove and Lee's Chapel, Jones County. By motion the letters were received and delegates seated. Visitors and corresponding messengers were invited to come forward and be recognized and seated in the body. Rev R. B. Crawford, National Executive Secretary of National F. W. B. Association as a representative of National Programs.

Business was adjourned for song and preaching services. Rev. Crawford brought the morning message in his own inimitable way from Psalm 145, using as a subject, "What has God Done?" and "What is God doing?"

Lunch.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

Association re-convened as all joined in song service. Rev. Elton Coleman read from 91st Psalm and offered some timely comment on same. Prayer by Rev. M. L. Hollis.

During lunch hour the Moderator arrived and after devotions, as above given, took charge.

Election of officers resulted in the same being retained for another year.

The Moderator appointed Resolution Committee as follows: C. R. Hollis, W. G. Prude and W. F. Bevill.

Reports from District Associations were called and the following read by Clerk

Report of Northeast Mississippi Association.

We are pleased to make our annual report to State Association when convened with Antioch Church, near Toccopola, on Thursday and Friday 18th—19th of Nov. 1943.

Greetings: We are glad to show progress in our work for past year. We had reporting to our Association, when Convened with Priceville Church near Tupelo, on Sept. 23-24, 1943, fourteen out of fifteen churches already affiliated and the addition of one new church (Depriest Chapel) making a total of 15 churches represented.

Statistics:—

Number of churches	15
Membership	2133
Received by experience and Baptism	89
Received by letter	32
Total members received	121
Dismissed	8
Deceased	12
Paid Pastors	\$3427.76
Paid Evangelists	1080.09
Paid Buildings and Repairs	1693.32
Paid Incidentals	952.40
Paid Home Missions	304.11
Paid Foreign Missions	34.30
Paid Christian Education	269.69
Paid Benevolences	276.81
Total	\$8038.48
Value of Church Property	\$30,489.14
Value of Parsonage	2,000.00
League Enrollment	341
Sunday School Enrollment	633
Number Leagues	8
Number Sunday Schools	12
Number Ladies Aids	4
Number Ordained Ministers	7
Number Licensed Ministers	3
Number Deacons	55

J. M. Haas, Moderator

George C. Lee, Clerk

W. G. Prude, Treas.

REPORT OF ZION REST ASSOCIATION

We submit our annual report to State Association when convened with Antioch Church, Pontotoc County, 18—19th of Nov. 1943.

Greetings: We had five churches represented at our Association which convened on October 2—4, 1943.

Statistics

Number churches	5
Membership	315
Received by Baptism	7
Received by Letter	1
Deceased	4
Paid to Association	\$ 28.00
Paid Pastors	113.25
Paid Evangelists	165.00
Dismissed by Letter	2
Sunday Schools	4
Teachers	14
Enrollment	205
Deacons Present	4
Ordained Ministers	10
Licensed Ministers	2
Amount in Treasury	\$40.10

Brooks Little, Sec'y.-Treas.

Route 1

Richton, Miss.

The Treasurer's report was made at this time and request by him that auditing Committee be appointed to Audit all accounts for the past year. Moderator appointed Committee as follows: Mrs. Flora Hildreth, Zone Waugh and Mrs. Robert Strube. Their report was as follows:

We your Auditing Committee find books in good condition as kept by Secretary of Orphanage Board, and also Treasurer's account O. K. up to present.

Signed: Committee

REPORT OF RESOLUTION COMMITTEE

We recommend that;

Whereas, The National Association has a working plan for Home

Missions, we hereby endorse this plan, as being worked out by general body of this Association.

Whereas; We the Committee recommend the setting up of a State Board to work in cooperation with the National Board, same to consist of five members. We also ask that the body vote on taking over the Management and supervision of Free Will Baptist Messenger, that it be managed and supervised by State Home Mission Board, and that an Editor be elected at this session of Association. The above report was read and adopted by sections, after due discussion, Board was duly selected as follows: C. R. Hollis, Gattman, D. U. Bishop, Laurel, W. G. Prude, L. E. Duncan and J. T. Alexander of Tupelo. The Association agreed unanimously to take over Messenger and retained Rev. M. L. Hollis as Editor-in-chief with L. E. Duncan as Associate Editor.

Supplemental report of Resolution Committee:

Whereas: The National Association has a workable plan for Superannuation which we endorse and recommend that a board be appointed to work in cooperation with the National Superannuation Board, which has its Constitution and by-laws already set forth. The following were appointed to serve on The Miss. State Superannuation Board: Rev. J. M. Haas, Tupelo, Miss, Chm., Rev. G. C. Lee, Calhoun City, Miss., Bro. W. A. Mason, Bucatunna, Miss., Bro. L. J. Lee, Gattman, Miss., Mrs. Mildred Honneil, Sec.-Treas., Columbus.

We recommend that a Field Secretary be elected to look after our State Program in general, in all sections of State and strive to get a greater interest among our people.

The above recommendation was unanimous endorsed and Bro. W. G. Prude was elected as State F.W. B. Promotional Secretary for one year. In accepting the place he agreed to give his services and only asked that actual expenses be taken care of by the Association.

Final report of Resolution Committee:

We recommend that a rising vote of thanks be extended the Antioch church and Community for their kind spirit of hospitality shown us while in their midst, God bless each of you.

Signed: Committee

Rev. R. B. Crawford made a report of the work and program of the denomination.

Assignment of Homes.

THURSDAY EVENING

Song service led by Rev. D. M. Smitherman, prayer by Rev. J. M. Haas. Devotions by Rev. Grover Price, followed by fine testimonial service, with much love and rejoicing. Prayer by Rev. R. B. Crawford.

Rev. M. L. Hollis took the stand, read from 2nd Peter 3rd Chapter and Rev. 18, preaching a masterful sermon on the subject, "The Closing of Civilization," or "All Earthly Kingdoms". In closing he made a strong appeal that all "prepare to meet thy God."

FRIDAY MORNING SESSION

Association met by singing led by Rev. Lee. Prayer by Bro. C. R. Hollis.

At this time there was an appeal that we get behind the Messenger with our finance and the following responded for their churches:

C. R. Hollis—Depriest.....	\$25.00
G. C. Lee—Gauley.....	25.00
J. F. Parker—Gauley.....	5.00
J. M. Haas—Priceville	25.00
Mildred Honneil—Columbus.....	1.00
Flora Hildreth—Columbus.....	1.00
Jettie Inmon—Stetson Chapel	1.00
Coot Daniel—Antioch	1.00
R. B. Crawford—Ashland City, Tenn.....	2.00
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	\$86.00

REPORT OF HOME MISSION BOARD

We, your Home Mission Board, report that we have organized as follows: C. R. Hollis, Chairman, L. E. Duncan, Sec'y.-Treas.

We recommend at W. G. Prude's request, that L. E. Duncan work with him in the State field work. We also recommend that all manuscript or communications be mailed to Free Will Baptist Messenger, Box 689, Tupelo, Miss. We recommend that application be made for second class mailing rate for mailing of Messenger, cost of same to be paid from general fund, (\$25.00).

We further recommend that all members of denomination in Mississippi mail to P. O Box 689, Tupelo, Miss., any worthwhile reading matter that would be good for publication in Messenger. That same be mailed by first of each month. Each church requested to furnish calendar of services.

Signed: Home Mission Board

The following report was adopted in full by Association body.

A move was made, seconded and duly carried to transfer the amount of \$27.50, which was taken at 1942 session for Orphanage, to general funds of State Home Mission Board.

A move was made to carry all funds of State Association under one account. All Association expenses to be paid, such as minutes, programs and officers, the remainder to go into Mission Funds.

Delegates appointed to Sister State Association as follows:

Alabama: M. L. Hollis, J. M. Haas, L. E. Duncan., Cordova, Ala., Thursday night before 2nd Sunday in November, 1944.

Arkansas: M. L. Hollis, W. G. Prude, Geo. C. Lee, Wednesday night before 1st Sunday in October 1944.

Tennessee: D. U. Bishop, J. F. Parker, L. E. Duncan.

Delegates to National Association, Flat River, Mo., July 11—16, 1944: J. F. Parker, C. R. Hollis, L. E. Duncan, Flora Hildreth, Alternate, Mildred Honneil.

Next session of Mississippi State Association to convene with Lee's Chapel Church, Jones County, near Laurel, Miss.

The following was given on Tent debt:

J. F. Parker—Gauley	\$5.00
C. R. Hollis—Depriest	5.00
Mildred Honneil—Columbus	5.00
Ted Finley—Antioch	1.00
Robert Strube—Antioch	4.00
J. R. Davis—Stetson Chapel	1.00
Jettie Inmon—Stetson Chapel	1.00
Martin May—Stetson Chapel	1.00
W. G. Prude—East Tupelo.....	5.00
Total	\$28.00

All of the other Churches urged to mail in at least \$5.00 to apply on the liquidation of this tent debt. Mail to W. G. Prude, Tupelo, Miss.

Business session adjourned to meet with Lee's Chapel, 9 miles east of Laurel, Thursday and Friday, before 3rd Sunday in Nov. 1944.

Rev. J. M. Haas filled the stand at 11:30 and read from 116th Psalm, Text, Luke 19:34, "The Lord hath Need of Him." The service closed with an old-time hand shake as "God be with Us" was sung.

Benediction.

Lunch was spread and every one enjoyed a delicious and appetizing meal before going their way with the kindest Christian feelings for the good people of this church and community.

M. L. Hollis, Mod.
George C. Lee, Clerk
L. E. Duncan, Treas.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance on hand at close of 1942 session.....	\$54.77
Amount received during interim.....	22.67
Association due for 1943 Session	86.37
Received from Churches and individuals on Messenger.....	86.00
Transferred from Orphanage fund.....	27.50

Total receipts to Nov. 22, 1943.....	\$277.31
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Disbursements:

Minutes	\$17.50
Postage (Mailing minutes)62
National Ass'n. Dues	10.00
Programs	5.00
Association letter forms	3.00
Postage and stationery	1.82
State Ass'n officers.....	20.00

Total	\$57.94
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Balance on hand Nov. 22, 1943.....	\$219.37
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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 session 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 on Thursday and Friday before the third Sunday in November. 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 meetings. 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.

STATISTICAL TABLE

CHURCHES	Members	No. Received	No. Lost	Value of Church Property	Paid Pastors	Paid Evangelist	Repairs	Missions	Education	Benevolence	Incidentals	Total Expenses	Funds Sent	S. S. Enrollment	League	Aid
East Tupelo.....	203	6	3	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 245.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 457.59	\$181.16	\$125.72	\$121.17	\$179.81	\$1410.65	\$10.15	72	22	13
Columbus.....	171	3	1	7000.00	375.00	125.00		21.00	91.25	20.14	219.02	854.39	10.00	55	56	25
Antioch.....	108	11	1	1000.00	153.00	68.00	100.00		27.00		17.00	365.00	5.00	35		13
Union Hill.....	102	6	1	1000.00	250.68	41.00	148.26					481.62	5.50	39		
Springdale.....	186	16		1500.00	155.16	62.22					46.64	277.02	2.65	79		
Pleasant Grove.....	95	1		750.00	51.13	60.00						111.13	3.00	50		
Beech Springs.....	125			1500.00	356.87	66.15	372.99	23.00	9.20			828.21	3.00	60	35	
Bethlehem.....	176	5	3	2500.00	139.92	82.51						234.19	5.00	85		
Gauley.....	107	3		750.00	210.12	35.00		2.00	2.00			249.12	5.00			
Priceville.....	60	3	1	2000.00	100.69	73.00	356.00	65.00	25.00			637.72	10.52	40	30	
Depriest	48	24	1	1439.14	203.57	33.55	44.30	55.00	37.55	65.88	70.31	611.96	10.00	42		
Stetson Chapel.....	80			750.00	47.50		40.00					87.50	5.00			
Corinth.....	36		1	1000.00	35.00	25.00		1.35			30.00	91.35	1.80	60		
Lee's Chapel W. C	28	3			54.49	40.00						94.49	2.00	65		
Pine Grove.....	58		1	750.00		14.00	20.00					20.00	2.75			
Lee's Chapel J. C..	112	1	2	1000.00	40.00	35.00	25.00	5.00	10.00	5.00		120.00	5.00	40		
Pearce Chapel.....	448	25	2	3000.00	473.75	219.91	209.00	25.05	40.27	80.12	40.71	\$1088.81	10.00	80	36	20
TOTALS.....	2153	107	174	\$30,939.14	\$2892.06	\$1080.34	\$1773.14	\$378.56	\$367.99	\$292.31	\$603.41	\$7353.16	\$96.37	802	179	71

East Tupelo reports Parsonage valued at \$2,000.00

Depriest Chapel reports \$100.00 given to Orphanage

STATE ASSOCIATION DIRECTORY

REV. M. L. HOLLIS, Moderator Columbus, Miss.
REV. GEO. C. LEE, Clerk..... Calhoun City, Miss.
L. E. DUNCAN, Treasurer.....Tupelo, Miss.

MISSION BOARD

C. R. HOLLIS, Chairman.....Gattman, Miss.
W. G. PRUDETupelo, Miss.
D. U. BISHOP.....Laurel, Miss.
L. E. DUNCAN.....Tupelo, Miss.
J. T. ALEXANDER.....Tupelo, Miss.

SUPERANNUATION BOARD

J. M. HAAS, Chairman.....Tupelo, Miss.
GEORGE C. LEE.....Calhoun City, Miss.
W. A. MASON.....Bucatanua, Miss.
L. J. LEEGattman, Miss.
MRS. MILDRED HONNEIL.....Columbus, Miss.

FREE WILL BAPTIST MESSENGER

Box 689, Tupelo, Miss.

M. L. HOLLIS, Editor-in-chief.....Columbus, Miss.
L. E. DUNCAN, Associate editor.....Tupelo, Miss.

W. G. PRUDE, State Promotional Secretary.....Tupelo, Miss.