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MINUTES
OF
THIRD ANNUAL SESSION
Mississippi State Association
OF
FREE WILL BAPTIST



Convened With
LEE'S CHAPEL CHURCH
Jones County



NOVEMBER 16-17, 1944



Next session to convene with the Amory Church
in Monroe County, Miss., on Thursday before
the Third Sunday in November, 1945

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FIRST DAY—MORNING SESSION

The third annual session of the State Association of the Free Will Baptist, met on Thursday the 16th day of November 1944, with the Lee's Chapel Church, nine miles east of Laurel, Miss.

The session opened with singing, conducted by W. A. Prude and a scripture reading by W. A. Mason, and prayer by Rev. J. M. Haas.

The moderator took charge and appointed reading clerks to assist the clerk in the reading of church letters. Mrs. Nan Poste and Mrs. Letcher Fields were selected.

The following churches represented by letter and delegation, The East Tupelo, Antioch, Springdale, Union Hill, Gauley, Bethlehem, Priceville, Depriest, Fawn Grove, Columbus, Stetson Chapel, from the North East Miss. Association and, Pine Grove, Lovewell, Thompson Creek, and Lee's Chapel, Jones County, and Lee's Chapel, Wayne County, all from the Zion Rest Association.

The letters were read and the delegates were seated.

At this time the election of officers took place and the same old officers were retained by vote of the body: Rev. M. L. Hollis, as Moderator, Rev. Geo. C. Lee, Clerk and L. E. Duncan, Treas., Rev. J. M. Haas, Asst. Moderator.

Adjourned for preaching.

Song led by Brother Prude and Brother M. L. Hollis went in the stand and preached a fine sermon from the text, Psa. 37th. Chapter, Subject: "The Rejected Stone."

Adjourned for lunch.

Met by singing, led by Rev. L. C. Johnson, song, "'Tis so Sweet to Trust in Jesus," devotion by Rev. Lewis, and prayer by Sister Post.

The Moderator took charge and appointed a resolution committee as follows: L. C. Johnson, C. R. Hollis, A. W. Stephens, W. A. Mason, and Mrs. E. K. Brown.

Rev. R. B. Crawford, Executive Secretary, National Association of Nashville, was present and made his report of the different phases of his work, and his report was an interesting one and appreciated by the association very much.

C. R. Hollis, chairman of the Home Mission board took the floor and made his report as to the work of the Board for the past year, and

it too was an interesting report. It showed a very good progress in the work. There were several meetings held by the state evangelist, Rev. M. L. Hollis and two new churches organized, one in Amory, Miss., and one in Philadelphia, Miss. And meetings were held in Waynesboro, and Dorsey, and Pontotoc. As a whole it looks as though we are growing and making some good showings as a denomination.

The new churches of Amory and Philadelphia, were added to the list of churches in the State Association.

Brother Prude, Promotional Secretary for the State Association made report as to his work for the year and as the other reports were, he reported good work and interest in the field of the State.

Rev. J. M. Haas as Chairman of the Superannuation Board made his report orally, and later a written report which report will be found in this minute.

Home assignments were made at this time.

The district associations made their annual reports. The first one reported, was the Northeast Mississippi.

Report of the North East Mississippi Association of the Free Will Baptist, the State of Miss. Association when convened with the Lee's Chapel church in Jones County, on Thursday before the third Sunday of November, 1944.

Our Statistics are as follows:

We report seventeen churches this year, an addition of two since the last session, the new ones are the Amory church and the Philadelphia. The one at Amory, and the other at Philadelphia, Miss., organized thru the evangelistic efforts of Brother M. L. Hollis.

Our Membership is	2229
Received by Letter	20
Received by Baptism	81
Dismissed	15
Deceased	13
No. Leaguers	293
No. S. S. Enrollment	666
Paid pastors.....	\$ 5097.26
Paid Evangelist	1160.45
Paid on Bldg.	1854.00
Paid Incidentals	733.32
Paid Home Missions	1587.20
Paid Foreign Mission	63.00

Paid on Bevn'l.	358.27
Paid on Christian Ed.	535.16
Paid on Bible School	166.00
Paid on Sup. Annu.	64.50
Paid on Minutes	68.08

Total \$11,687.24

Value of church property \$32,550.00

We have ten ordained preachers, and two licensed preachers and fifty three deacons.

Geo. C. Lee, Clerk

P. O. Box 175 Calhoun City, Miss.

Report of the Zion Rest Association of Free Will Baptist convened with Lovewell church on Saturday before the first Sunday of October, 1944.

No of churches represented	6
Total Membership	300
Rec. by Baptism.....	11
Rec. by Letter	1
Rec. by Confession	2
Total Rec.	14
Dismissed by letter	1
Excluded	2
Deceased	3
Total dis.	6
Sabbath Schools	4
Pupils	185
Teachers	14
Ministers	10
Licensed	2
Amount paid pastors	\$165.50
Paid Evangelist	325.11
Paid to asso. for printing	31.35
Paid Home Mission	32.00
Amount in treas.	12.10

Total \$ 75.45

Paid to Home Mission.....	\$32.00	
Paid Printing fee	18.00	
Clerk's fee	10.00	
	<u>\$60.00</u>	<u>60.00</u>
Bal.		\$15.45

Brooks Little, Sec'y.

Richton, Miss., RFD 1

There was a move to elect a Presbytery for the purpose of ordaining ministers and deacons, and the following were elected as ordaining counsel: Rev. M. L. Hollis, Rev. J. M. Haas, Rev. Geo. C. Lee, Rev. George Pearson and Rev. L. C. Johnson. This counsel was asked to ordain brother Luther Gibson of the Damascus church to the work of the ministry and he was ordained by this Presbytery on Friday at the eleven o'clock hour by prayer and the laying on of hands.

The resolution committee made its report in three separate reports and we are giving them all in one recording of the minutes.

We, your committee on resolutions make our report as follows:

1. We recommend that each church of the respective associations elect a church treasurer and that all funds of the church be given to said treasurer to be spent upon authorization of the church.

2. We also recommend that each minister set an example of tithing before his people, and that he encourage them to do so.

3. Be it further recommended that this body petition the National executive secretary for another session of the Christian Workers Institute in this state.

4. Be it also recommended that the next session of the state association meet with the Amory Free Will Baptist Church of Amory, Miss.

5. This committee recommends that Rev. M. L. Hollis be retained as Editor-in-chief of the Messenger, and that L. E. Duncan be retained as associate editor.

6. Be it further recommended that Brother W. G. Prude be re-elected as promotional secretary for the state.

7. We recommend that each church make arrangements for a bundle, or a certain number of Messengers each month.

8. We recommend that the Home Mission board be empowered to formulate and setup a building and loan fund for the aid of newly organized churches and other churches that need help in enlarging or repairing their facilities.

9. Be it resolved that this body extend a rising vote of thanks to the Lee's Chapel church and community for their kindness and hospitality shown us while in their midst.

Respectfully submitted,

L. C. Johnson, Chairman

The above resolutions were adopted by unanimous vote of the body.

The next session of the state association was voted to go to the Amory church of Amory, Miss.

Pearces Chapel church was added to the list of members in the state association.

Recess

Came together by singing, quartet led by Rev. L. C. Johnson, Rev. Lee, Mrs. Post and Rev. Crawford, song 205, Favorite songs and hymns.

Several talks were made on the progress of the work of the state association and then adjournment 'till Friday morning, there were preaching at night. Night services were led by Rev. Lee and Rev. L. C. Johnson filled the stand and delivered a very able message from John 7:37, "If any man thirst, let him come to me and drink."

SECOND DAY—MORNING SESSION

Met by singing led by Brother Prude, and prayer and devotion by Brother Charley Hollis. There was a very inspiring experience meeting at this time and many fine talks were made by different ones.

At this time we had with us some visitors from Nashville, Tenn., who were seated with us and given a hand of welcome, Rev. Damon Dodd, pastor of the East Nashville Free Will Baptist church and Brother Luther Gibson, a student in the Free Will Baptist College of Nashville, Tenn. Brother Gibson was ordained for the ministry while here.

Brother L. E. Duncan, our Treasurer made his report of the finance of the association and it was very interesting to note what had been done the past year in the missionary field and also at home.

There was a move and sustained to retain the same mission board for nineteen forty-five (1945) and they were given vote of endorsement for the next year.

There was a move to appoint a revision committee to revise the present constitution and the following were appointed, L. C. Johnson, L. E. Duncan and J. M. Haas.

The association voted to give to East Tupelo church the Christian Worker's Institute to be taught some time in early 1945.

There was corresponding delegates to the state association of Alabama, which meets with the Brilliant Free Will Baptist Church Thursday and Friday before the second Sunday in November, 1945, L. E. Duncan, Ted Finly and Rev. E. A. Lewis.

To the Ga. State Association, Rev. L. C. Johnson, C. R. Hollis and W. G. Prude.

To the National association, L. E. Duncan, C. R. Hollis, J. T. Alexander, W. G. Prude, Albert Burges, and as alternate, Sisters Letcher Fields and Mrs. E. K. Brown.

From the Zion Rest Association was Brother Steve Lee, and from the North East Association, Brother Jack Parker.

There was handed in a nice letter from Rev. J. R. Davidson, business manager for the Free Will Baptist College at Nashville, Tenn. It was read with interest.

The program committee reported that Rev. Damon Dodd fill the stand at the eleven o'clock hour.

A vote for final adjournment, and there was a prayer for the boys in service and the prayer was led by Rev. Luther Gibson and we were adjourned to meet next year with the Amory church.

A song led by Rev. Robt. Crawford "I love to tell the story," and Rev. Dodd filled the stand and preached a wonderful sermon from the text, "Speak to the children of Israel that they go forward," taken from Ex. 14:15, an inspiring one indeed and at the close the Moderator called for the parting song and we sung, "God Be With You Till We Meet Again", and thus closed a wonderful session of the Mississippi State Association of Free Will Baptist.

Rev. M. L. Hollis, Moderator

Rev. Geo. C. Lee, Clerk

L. E. Duncan, Treasurer

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR ASSOCIATIONAL YEAR 1943-44

Balance brought forward	219.37
Receipts:	
Antioch	15.65
Bethlehem	17.11
Columbus	87.50
Damascus	25.00
Depriest Chapel	250.00
East Tupelo	136.00
Cordova, Ala.	11.00
Fawn Grove	41.10
Gauley	10.00
Lovewell	13.00
Lee's Chapel—Jones Co.	6.00
Lee's Chapel—Wayne Co.	2.00
Pearce's Chapel	116.00
Priceville	40.00
Pleasant Grove	5.00
Springdale	36.00
Union Hill	8.00
Zion's Rest Association	32.00
17—1 yr. Subs.	12.75
24-18 mos. Subs.	24.00
Rev. M. L. Hollis	70.00
Rev. George Lee	20.00
C. R. Hollis	6.50
Quincy Meeting	59.12
Amory Meeting	186.10
Waynesboro Meeting	162.17
Philadelphia Meeting	67.30
Pontotoc Meeting	53.30
Miss. State League Rally	14.00

TOTAL RECEIPTS..... \$1745.97

DISBURSEMENTS:

Expenses of Promotional Secretary	\$ 49.04
Traveling expenses (For Car) Mission Board, 1791 miles.....	71.64
Paid for upkeep of Tent and trailer	44.89
Paid for Labor, eats and drinks (Soft).....	36.70
Advertising, signs, placards, sermon texts, etc.....	42.33

For Chairs	45.29
Rent on seats	9.50
Wiring, bulbs, and lights	17.57
Evangelist (9 weeks)	565.00
Singers and pianists	175.35
State Association Minutes	18.70
National Association Dues	20.00
Second Class Mailing entry Fee	25.00
Postage	61.36
Printing 13,500 FWB Messengers	327.50
Office Supplies—Forms, Stationery, gummed tape, stickers Stapler and staples, lumber for desk and cuts	41.11
To Amory Church	59.12

Total\$1610.10

Balance in Treasury	\$135.87
Received during 1944 Session of Association	163.55
Paid Ass'n. officers	20.00
Total in treasury Nov. 18, 1944	\$299.42

STATE ASSOCIATION DIRECTORY

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

MISSION BOARD

C. R. HOLLIS, Chairman	Gattman, Miss.
W. G. PRUDE	Tupelo, 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. LEE	Gattman, Miss.
MRS. MILDRED HONNEIL	Columbus, Miss.

FREE WILL BAPTIST MESSENGER

Box 1, East Tupelo, Miss.

M. L. HOLLIS, Editor-in-chief.....	Red Bay, Ala.
L. E. DUNCAN, Associate editor.....	Tupelo, Miss.

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

CHURCHES	Members	No. Rec'd.	No. Lost	Value of Property	Paid Pastor	Paid Evangelist	Buildings and Repairs	Missions	Christian Education	Benevolences	Incidentals	Ass'n. Funds Sent	Sunday S. Enrollment	League Enrollment	TOTALS
Antioch.....	108	3		1,000	198.65	109.55						5.00	40	18	348.75
Bethlehem.....	114	5		3,000	277.87	30.00	185.88	6.00	2.00		2.50	8.00	70		507.25
Columbus.....	175	8	4	7,000	1000.00	165.00	60.00	65.00	250.00		75.00	10.00	56	55	1625.00
Depriest.....	60	14	1	1,500	240.00	130.00	112.26	706.60	155.00	30.92	113.50	10.00	60	40	1495.28
East Tupelo.....	197	9	15	5,500	945.00	191.25	922.44	289.40	190.86	120.00	115.20	9.85	68	38	2804.65
Fawn Grove.....	195	3	3	2,000	210.00	100.00	42.60	42.00	17.40	32.00	16.20	10.00	75	50	369.60
Gauley.....	116	12		1,000	277.88	86.80						7.00			531.73
Lee's Chapel-JC ..	78	2	3	1,000	67.00	50.00	20.00	6.00			10.00	5.00	52		158.00
Lee's Chapel-WC....												6.50			6.50
Lovewell.....	72	7		800.	7.65	175.00		15.00		12.00		5.15	52		224.65
Pine Grove.....	46	2	14	750.	14.00	15.00					3.60	2.30	45		34.90
Priceville.....	76	19	1	2,000	293.67		141.00	60.00	50.00			10.00	60	50	604.57
Springdale.....	183	1	1	1,500	276.54	156.94		18.25			43.00	7.00	40		457.53
Stetson Chapel.....	76		1	1,000	33.60	30.00						2.00			65.60
Thompson's Creek.	40	3	3	500.	48.43	12.00		4.00				7.00			71.43
Union Hill	103	4	3	1,000	282.78		15.00					5.00			302.78
TOTAL	1639	90	49	29,550	4173.07	1261.54	1484.68	1237.25	665.20	194.92	378.80	108.80	618	257	9645.66

East Tupelo Parsonage valued at \$2,000

Pleasant Grove and Pearce Chapel reports were not in time for printing.

Amory and Philadelphia Churches added to Association upon recommendation without reports.