

MINUTES
OF THE
FIRST ANNUAL SESSION
OF THE
MISSISSIPPI STATE ASSOCIATION
OF
FREE WILL BAPTISTS
WHEN CONVENED WITH
TUPELO FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH
CANAL STREET
TUPELO, MISSISSIPPI

November 6, 1965

THE NEXT SESSION WILL BE HELD WITH THE
FELLOWSHIP FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH
NEAR RICHTON, MISSISSIPPI, NOVEMBER 5, 1966

**MISSISSIPPI STATE ASSOCIATION
OF
FREE WILL BAPTIST
1965-66**

OFFICERS

MODERATOR **REV. DANIEL GASKINS**
Route No. 1, Richton, Mississippi

ASSISTANT MODERATOR **REV. TILLIS WALLEY**
1019 Shady St., Columbus, Mississippi

CLERK **REV. BILLY SHARPSTON**
Route No. 2, Saltillo, Mississippi

ASSISTANT CLERK **MR. BOBBY MILLS**
Route No. 1, Richton, Mississippi

TREASURER **REV. JOHN REED**
304 6th Avenue North, Amory, Mississippi

BOARDS

BOARD OF MISSIONS AND CHURCH EXTENSION

Mr. W. G. Prude — 1966; Rev. Randy Cox (Chairman) — 1967; Mr.
Lonnie Walley — 1968; Rev. Tom Johnson (Secretary) — 1969; Mr.
Felton Hollifield — 1970.

BOARD OF CONFERENCE AND ITENIRATE MINISTERS

Rev. Miton Worthington (Chairman) — 1966; Mr. Ray Walley — 1967;
Rev. Earl Simpson — 1968.

PROCEEDINGS

The first annual session of the Mississippi State Association of Free Will Baptist convened with the Tupelo Free Will Baptist Church, Tupelo, Mississippi on November 6, 1965, with the Moderator, Rev. Daniel Gaskins presiding.

The session was opened with singing "Count your blessings" and "Work for the night is coming", led by Rev. Milton Worthington.

The devotional was given by Rev. Milton Worthington, pastor of the Tupelo Church, who spoke on the "Faithfulness of God to us" from Lamentations 3:19.

Welcome was given by Rev. Tom Johnson, Moderator of Northeast Association. Response was then given by Bro. Roy Pearson of the South Mississippi Association.

Moderator, Rev. Daniel Gaskins brought a short message on the need of sacrifice to work for the promotion of the State Association. The partial report of the Credentials committee was given.

The Moderator appointed the Committee on committees as follows; Rev. Tom Johnson, Chairman, Bro. E. F. Harris and Rev. Earl Simpson. The report of the Executive committee was read, with a motion and second to accept the report.

Rev. Charles Hollingshead, member of the National Board of Church Training Service, spoke on how to conduct the CTS program, and how it was to be carried on from the local level all the way to the National.

The number of Constitutional changes were read by the clerk, with a motion and second to table until the afternoon session.

Report of the National Board of Home Missions and Church Extension was given by Rev. Mark Vandivort. He spoke of getting more Missiongrams into the homes of more people in Mississippi and other areas. He also gave us a good report on the work the Board is doing in the West, and all over North America. We were then dismissed for a short recess.

The Morning Worship service was opened by the singing of "Blessed Assurance", led by Milton Worthington. Prayer was offered by Rev. Randy Cox.

Report of Committee on Committees was given by Rev. Tom Johnson, chairman. (See Committee on Committees report). A special offering was taken and given to National Home Missions, amount received from special offering was \$46.13.

Special music was by Miss Linda Barber of Beech Springs Free Will Baptist Church. She sang, "Little is much when God is in it."

The morning message was delivered by Evangelist Bobby Jackson. He spoke from Nehemiah 2:18b, using as a basis for his message the "Matter of spiritual work, and the need of spiritual revival and successful methods in

doing this.” We were then dismissed for lunch and a time of fellowship together.

The afternoon session was opened by singing, “Christ receiveth sinful men” and “Follow on” led by Bro. Jolly Winders of the Tupelo Church. Special music was by Katherine Manning and Sara Walley, they sang “Without Him I could do nothing.” Rev. M. L. Hollis was introduced as the speaker for the afternoon. Bro. Hollis preached from Heb. 2:1 using as a theme “Lest we let it leak out,” concerning the need of Free Will Baptist to close up the ranks.

Rev. Randy Cox, chairman of the Board of Missions and Church Extension gave the report of the past year and noted that we started from nothing to where we are now. (See Report of Missions and Church Extension).

REPORT OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

Associations	Number of Delegates	Dues
Northeast Mississippi	5	\$20.00
South Mississippi	5	20.00
	—	—
Total	10	\$40.00

The 1966 Mississippi State Association of Free Will Baptist will meet with the Fellowship Free Will Baptist Church near Richton, Miss.

C H U R C H E S

Name of Church	Number of Delegates	Dues
Lees Chapel	1	\$10.00
County Line	1	10.00
New Life	1	3.00
Fulton	1	10.00
Buckatunna	1	10.00
Fellowship	1	10.00
Lees Chapel W. C.	1	10.00
Fawn Grove	1	5.00
Union Hill	1	5.00
Beech Springs	1	10.00
Main Street	1	10.00
McGregor Chapel	1	10.00
Thompson Creek	0	10.00
Antioch	0	10.00
Tupelo	1	10.00
Hollis Chapel	1	10.00
First Columbus	1	20.00
Pearce Chapel	1	20.00
First Amory	1	10.00
First Pascagoula	1	10.00
Springdale	1	10.00
Lovewell	1	10.00
	—	—
Total	20	\$223.00

TREASURER'S REPORT

1964-65

GENERAL FUND

Balance brought forward	\$ -0-
Receipts:	
Associational fees for 1964 session	\$170.00
TOTAL	\$170.00
Disbursements:	
Travel expense	\$158.00
Supplies — clerk and treasurer	10.00
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	\$168.00
Balance in General Fund	\$ 1.42

MISSION FUND RECEIPTS

General receipts from churches, individuals and associations	\$1,057.22
“Will Mason Day” receipts	1,057.22
“M. L. Hollis Day” receipts	542.52
TOTAL MISSION FUND RECEIPTS	\$2,653.63

John H. Reed, Treasurer

Motion carried to adopt this report.

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF MISSIONS AND CHURCH EXTENSION OF THE MISSISSIPPI STATE ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTIST

One (1) year ago at the organizational meeting of this body, a Board Missions and Church Extension was proposed and its members elected. It has been our blessed privilege to watch the hand of God move in the churches throughout our state, enabling us to bring you this report.

As a Board, we wish to express our thanksgiving to God and our deep appreciation to you, each individual and church, for the splendid cooperation you have given through this year. The phrase found in Nehemiah 4:6, “the people had a mind to work” very fittingly describes most of our Free Will Baptist folk in this state. That which has been accomplished could NOT have been done without YOU. NOBODY is more aware of this fact than this Board.

After the organizational meeting of the State Association last year, there was \$170.00 in the state treasurer. This money was to be used for state officers meetings, Board meetings and general promotion. There was NO funds designated for state missions. The thrust of the past years work started at that point and has developed in this manner.

1. The need for churches to give monthly to State Missions was stressed. Several churches presently make monthly gifts to State Missions.
2. In early spring the Board adopted the “Will Mason Day” project, encouraging each church to have such a day receiving an offering for State Missions in honor of Brother Mason. The total received was \$1,054.89, exceeding the goal of \$1,000.00.
3. In early August the Board met and adopted the “M. L. Hollis Day” project, following the same procedure used for the “Will Mason Day” project.

Our goal for this project is \$1,000.00. At this time \$542.52 has been received with still several churches gifts on the way and some planning their "M. L. Hollis Day" after this season of the State Association.

YOUR Board of Missions and Church Extension makes the following requests:

- 1 — that each church seek to give monthly to State Missions; your gift may not be the largest but EVERY GIFT COUNTS.
- 2 — that you ask God to give the members of this Board wisdom as we seek to put a missionary on the field in a Mississippi city during 1966.
- 3 — that you continue to cooperate with your Board since we are ONLY as effective as YOU make us.

YOUR Board submits the following recommendation for your consideration:

We recommend that the month of March be designated annually as State Missions Month, at which time all our churches are requested to give SPECIAL offerings for State Missions; and that the 1966 slogan be "MARCH FOR MISSISSIPPI MISSIONS". (We hope to have bumper stickers and/or posters printed with this slogan on them and publicize Mississippi Free Will Baptist).

TOTAL presently in the State Missions Fund \$2,652.63.

Submitted by:

Rev. Randy Cox, Chairman
Rev. Tom Johnson, Secretary
Felton Hollifield, Member
W. G. Prude, Member
Lonnie Walley, Member

Motion carried to adopt this report.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES

OBITUARY: Rev. Gerald Owens, Mrs. Vavdie Walley, Mrs. Alice Barber.

RESOLUTIONS: Rev. Milton Worthington, Roy Pearson, Rev. Wayne Yarbrough.

NOMINATING: Rev. Ronald Howland, Jimmy Walley, Rev. Tillis Walley.

Respectfully submitted by:

Rev. Tom Johnson, Chairman
E. F. Harris, Member
Rev. Earl Simpson, Member

REPORT OF OBITUARY COMMITTEE

This past year we see that God has called 16 precious souls from our midst. God's ways are not our ways and we cannot see His immediate purpose in taking these loved ones. Let us stand in a moment of silent prayer in remembrance of these.

Submitted by:

Rev. Gerald Owens, Chairman
Mrs. Vavdie Walley, Member
Mrs. Alice Barber, Member

Motion carried to accept this report.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee of the Mississippi State Association of Free Will Baptist met at the home of Mr. and Mrs. V. C. Chisom (Bro. Gibson's sister) 4818 Springs Dr., Meridian, Miss., February 26, 1965. Members present were Rev. Luther Gibson, Rev. Billy Sharpston, Rev. John Reed, and Rev. Daniel Gaskins. Business opened with prayer by Rev. Daniel Gaskins.

We make the following Recommendations:

1. We recommend the insertion into the Constitution under Article 6, Boards and committees the following which will be section 3 added to article 6.

Section 3. The Board of Missions and Church Extension is a standing Board composed of five (5) members with terms up to five (5) years, with a board member going off each year.

2. We recommend the insertion in the By-laws under No. 4, Boards and committees.

A. Executive Committee.

B. Board of Missions and Church Extension: It shall be the duty of this board to:

1. Receive and disburse money allocated them by the State and other money.
2. To promote the organization of new churches.
3. To give a complete report of all funds received, disbursements, and progress made, to State body.
4. To take care of all travel and promotional expenses of Board members out of mission fund.

Motion carried to adopt the above insertions into Constitution.

The Executive Committee of the Mississippi State Association of Free Will Baptist met at the Morganwood Camp, July 30, 1965. Members present were Rev. Luther Gibson, Rev. John Haisten, Rev. Billy Sharpston and Rev. Daniel Gaskins.

We make the following recommendations:

1. We recommend that the clerk draw up a petitionary letter to the National Association of Free Will Baptist for approval of this committee to be presented to the State Association to approve.
2. We recommend that this State Association petition for membership in the National Association of Free Will Baptist.
3. We recommend that we adopt the suggested letter form, from the local church to the State Association with the insertion of State Missions as suggested in the Free Will Baptist Treaties.
4. We recommend that we set up a Board of Conference and Itinerant Ministries consisting of three (3) members to be instituted as a standing board, with a member going off each year.
5. We recommend that the clerk have letterheads and envelopes made up for the State Association worded as follows; (Mississippi State Association of

Free Will Baptist. Scripture verse, "So they strengthened their hands for this good work" . . . Nehemiah 2:18b).

6. We recommend that the minutes of the State Association be printed, the first copy to include the organizational meeting and first meeting of the State Association.

The Executive Committee of the Mississippi State Association of Free Will Baptist met in a called meeting at the First Free Will Baptist Church, Amory, Miss., Friday night, September 10, 1965. Members present were, Rev. Daniel Gaskins, Rev. John Reed, Rev. Billy Sharpston. Business was opened with prayer by John Reed.

Motion carried to adopt the above recommendations.

Purpose of the meeting was to elect a (Moderator pro-tem). The committee appointed the Rev. Daniel Gaskins, Rev. Billy Sharpston was moved up to the position of Clerk. There was a discussion on the letter forms to be sent to each church. The meeting was closed in prayer by Billy Sharpston.

Committee recommendation of amendment to By-law No. 5.

Travel shall be paid by this Association at the rate of six (6) cents per mile, plus a compensation for food and lodging for Moderator, Assistant Moderator, and Clerk transacting business authorized by or in behalf of the Association, or promotional work over the state. The Treasurer shall pay such expenses when a written, signed claim is presented by each individual involved.

Motion carried to adopt amendment to By-law No. 5.

REPORT OF RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

We, the resolutions committee recommend the following:

Whereas: we see the need of closer fellowship and better communication between the churches and associations in our State Association:

- I. Be it resolved: that the State Association publish a quarterly Newsletter under the direction of the Executive Committee of the State Association, and that the State Association assume the financial obligation of this work.
- II. Be it resolved that this Association give Rev. Bobby Jackson an honorarium of \$15.00.
- III. Be it resolved that we accept the invitation extended us from the Fellowship Free Will Baptist Church of Richton, Miss. to meet in annual session in 1966.
- IV. Be it resolved that we give the Tupelo Free Will Baptist Church a standing vote of appreciation for the cordial hospitality they have extended to us in this session.

Submitted by:

Rev. Milton Worthington

Roy Pearson

Wayne Yarbrough

Motion was carried to adopt report item by item. Each item was adopted and the congregation stood in appreciation to the Tupelo Free Will Baptist Church.

REPORT OF NOMINATING COMMITTEE

We, the nominating committee submit the following names for nomination:
Moderator — Rev. Daniel Gaskins.

Assistant Moderator — Rev. Randy Cox (Bro. Cox declined and Bro. Tillis Walley was nominated for the position).

Clerk — Rev. Billy Sharpston

Assistant Clerk — Bobby Mills

Treasurer — Rev. John Reed

Board of Missions and Church Extension:

Bro. Felton Hollifield nominated to succeed himself.

Board of Conference and Itinerate Ministries:

Rev. Milton Worthington — Chairman

Ray Walley — Member

Rev. Earl Simpson — Member

Respectfully submitted by:

Rev. Ronald Howland

Jimmy Walley

Rev. Tillis Walley

Motion carried to adopt each nomination by acclamation.

Rev. Randy Cox made a motion that, the Moderator of the State Association be authorized to spend two (2) days each month in promotion of the state work, and if he cannot do this, that he designate either the clerk, asst. moderator or treasurer to assist him in promotion.

Motion seconded and adopted.

Rev. John Reed, treasurer asked for more money to come into the general fund as gifts from the churches.

MINUTES OF THE ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING OF THE MISSISSIPPI STATE ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTIST

A special meeting of Free Will Baptist from the State of Mississippi was held on Saturday, November 7, 1964, at Lee's Chapel Free Will Baptist Church, Jones Couney, Laurel, Mississippi. The meeting was called to order by the Rev. L. D. Gibson.

The meeting was opened by the singing of the hymn "Revive us Again" led by Bro. W. G. Prude. Brother Lonnie Walley led in the opening prayer.

Rev. L. D. Gibson was then elected Temporary Moderator and Rev. Tom Johnson was elected Temporary Clerk. Brother Gibson then explained the purpose of this called meeting; that purpose being to organize a Mississippi State Association of Free Will Baptist. A motion was made by Rev. John Haisten that this group organize the Mississippi State Association of Free Will Baptist. The motion carried.

The proposed Constitution and By-laws were read by the Temporary

Clerk. This Constitution and By-laws was written by a committee consisting of the following persons: Rev. L. D. Gibson, Rev. Randy Cox, Rev. Ronald Howland, Rev. Billy Sharpston, Rev. Tom Johnson, Rev. Daniel Gaskins, Rev. John Haisten, Rev. L. D. Walley, and Bro. Lonnie Walley).

The motion was made and carried that the reading of the Constitution and By-laws be accepted and adopt the same article by article. The Constitution was adopted in its original form. The By-laws were adopted in the original form with one amendment being made as follows: On By-law No. 7, the final word "meeting" be changed to read "held".

The motion was made and carried that the Temporary Moderator be given the authority to appoint a nominating committee and that the body adjourn for he morning worship service.

The Temporary Moderator appointed the following as members of the nominating committee: Bro. L. E. Duncan, Bro. Lonnie Walley, Rev. Truman Freeman, Rev. Tom Johnson. The motion was made and carried that this committee be released in order to function.

The body then entered into the Morning Worship Service. Rev. John Reed of Amory, Mississippi, delivered the morning message, using Matthew 28:16-20, as his text. Rev. John Haisten made the announcement concerning the noon meal and the group was dismissed in prayer for the lunch hour.

AFTERNOON SESSION

The afternoon session was opened with the singing of the hymn "Amazing Grace", led by W. G. Prude. A motion was made and carried for the afternoon session to begin.

The first item of business was the reading of the nominating committee report, as follows: Moderator, Rev. L. D. Gibson; Assistant Moderator, Rev. John Haisten; Clerk, Rev. Daniel Gaskins; Assistant Clerk, Rev. Billy Sharpston; Treasurer, Rev. John Reed. No other names were submitted as nominations.

A motion was made and carried that the nominating committee report be adopted and the officers be installed.

A motion was made by Rev. Randy Cox, that this body elect a Board of five (5) men, as a **Board of Missions and Church Extension**.

The motion was made and carried, that the previously appointed nominating committee also serve to nominate five (5) men for the Board of Missions and Church Extension.

A motion was made by Rev. John Haisten, that the Association recommend that each church send in Ten Dollars (\$10.00) per month to the state treasurer earmarked for State Missions. This motion was amended as follows, to strike

out the words "Ten Dollars (\$10.00) and insert the words, pay as to their ability".

The amendment was carried. The original motion as amended was carried.

The Association was then adjourned for the afternoon worship service. Rev. Daniel Gaskins from Richton, Mississippi, delivered the message.

The Association was called to order by the Moderator to continue the business session. The nominating committee gave their nominations for the Board of Missions and Church Extension, as follows:

Felton Hollifield	1 year
W. G. Prude	2 years
Randy Cox	3 years
Lonnie Walley	4 years
Tom Johnson	5 years

This report was adopted as read with no other nominations given.

A motion was made and carried, that the Temporary Clerk be repaid for the cost of printing and mailing of the Constitution and By-laws.

A motion was made and carried that the next State Association convene at the Tupelo Free Will Baptist Church, Tupelo, Mississippi, on Saturday, November 6, 1965 at 9:30 A. M.

A special time of silent prayer in behalf of the late Rev. George Peirson and his family was called for.

Brother Will Mason then gave his special testimony to the Association.

The motion was made and carried to adjourn. The Association was dismissed in prayer.

Submitted by:
Rev. Tom Johnson,
Temporary Clerk

CONSTITUTION OF THE MISSISSIPPI STATE ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTIST

Article I — Name

This body shall be known henceforth as the Mississippi State Association of Free Will Baptist.

Article II — Purpose

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

Article III — Treatise of Faith and Practice

This body adopts the Treatise of the Faith and Practice of the National Association of Free Will Baptist.

Article IV — Membership

Section 1. — The membership of this association shall consist of all associations and churches that, from time to time, upon approval of the state association, shall become members of this body.

Section 2. — Representation: Each district association holding membership in the state association shall be entitled to five (5) representatives elected from the laity, with an additional representative from each church comprising the district association. Furthermore, all ordained ministers and deacons holding membership in churches within this state association shall be entitled to membership in this body.

Section 3. — Any local church whose association is not a member of the State Association, may be represented with one lay delegate and the ordained minister and deacons of that church.

Section 4. — It is understood that the Mississippi State Association of Free Will Baptist and the area associations comprising its membership have no judicial authority over any local church.

Section 5. — The Mississippi State Association of Free Will Baptist, the yearly association comprising its membership and their member local churches do not grant any judicial authority to any representative body to which they may belong.

Article V — Officers

The officers of this association shall be a Moderator, an assistant Moderator, a Clerk, an assistant Clerk, and a Treasurer, each of whom shall be nominated and elected by a standing vote from the floor at each regular meeting.

Election shall be determined by a majority vote of those present and voting. Officers thus elected shall hold their positions until their successors are elected and installed.

Article VI — Boards and Committees

Section 1. — The Executive Committee is a standing committee, composed of Moderator, Assistant Moderator, Clerk, Assistant Clerk, and Treasurer.

Section 2. — This association shall elect whatever Boards or Committees it deems necessary for its operation and shall state whether they are standing or temporary.

Section 3. — The Board of Missions and Church Extension is a standing Board composed of five (5) members with terms up to five (5) years, with a board member going off each year.

Article VIII — Meetings

This Association shall hold its regular meetings annually at a time and place fixed by the last regular session and made known before adjournment. Special meetings may be called by the Executive Committee when extreme necessity demands, providing that the clerk of each association has been properly notified at least fifteen (15) days before the date set for the meeting. Fifteen (15) legal representatives shall constitute a quorum for any special meetings of this Association.

Article VIII — Representative Fees

This body request that each association holding membership in this give a representative fee of of \$20.00 per year and each local church give a representative fee of \$10.00 per year.

Article IX — Amendments

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 and tabled in the morning session and voted on during the afternoon session.

BY-LAWS OF THE MISSISSIPPI STATE ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTIST

1. The Moderator or the Assistant Moderator shall call the Association to order at the hour designated by the program committee. When neither the Moderator nor the Assistant Moderator is present, the Executive Committee shall elect a Moderator pro tem, who shall call the Association to order.

2. It shall be the duty of the clerk to record the minutes of meetings and to enroll the delegates to the Association who shall present themselves with proper evidence of their rights to seats therein, and those enrolled by the clerk shall compose the Association. In case of questionable representation, however, the case under question shall be referred to a credential committee.

3. It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to hold all Associational funds and disperse same as authorized by the Association.

4. A—The Executive Committee shall act on behalf of the Association when the Association is not in session. Any action taken by this committee shall be submitted in report to the Association.

B—Board of Missions and Church Extension: It shall be the duty of this board to:

1. Receive and disburse money allocated them by the State and other money.
2. To promote the organization of new churches.
3. To give a complete report of all funds received, disbursements, and progress made, to State body.
4. To take care of all travel and promotional expenses of Board members out of the mission fund.

5. Travel shall be paid by this Association at the rate of six (6) cents per mile plus a compensation for food and lodging for Moderator, Assistant Moderator, and Clerk transacting business authorized by or in behalf of the Association, or promotional work over the state. The Treasurer shall pay such expenses when a written, signed claim is presented by each individual involved.

6. The Moderator shall appoint a committee on committees which shall present to the body nominations for such committees as are necessary.

7. That we receive the letters and seat the delegates on the strength of the Credential committee report, and omit public reading of the letters: all letters be mailed with the representative fee to the State Association Clerk by the first of the month in which meetings are to be held.

8. A Parliamentarian shall be elected by this body to decide and controversial proceeding upon the basis of ROBERT'S RULES OF ORDER.

9. These By-laws 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 and tabled in the morning session and voted on during the afternoon session.