

Pr. Springfield
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MINUTES

OF THE

Thirty-Ninth annual Session

OF THE

Mt Moriah Freewill Baptist Association,

CONVENED WITH

SHILOH CHURCH, PICKENS COUNTY, ALA.,

October 12-14 1889

Rev. Elder J. R. Robertson, Moderator.
Geo. V. Clardy, Clerk.

The next session will be held with Tabernacle Church,
Tuscaloosa County Ala., on Friday before the first Sabbath
in August, 1890.

PLEASANT VIEW, TENN.
FREEWILL BAPTIST PUBLISHING CO.

1889.

Minutes.

The Thirty-Ninth annual session of the Mt. Moriah Freewill Baptist Association was held with Shiloh church, Pickens county, Alabama, on the 12th, and 14th, days of October, 1889.

The Introductory Sermon was preached by Eld. J. S. Hinton. Text, Isaiah 25; 6 and 7. After religious service, a recess of one hour was taken for refreshments; after which the delegates assembled in the house. After singing, and prayer by Eld. Woods Springfield, former Moderator, business was conducted in the following order.

1st. Letters from the churches were called for, handed in, and contents noted, as per statistical table.

2nd. Proceeded to elect a Moderator and Clerk, whereupon Eld. J. R. Robertson was elected Moderator and George V. Clardy was re-elected Clerk.

3rd. Opened the door for the reception of churches into our body. None presented.

4th. Called for correspondence from sister Associations. Received none.

5th. Appointed the following committees, viz., On Documents and Order of Business, Elds. W. Springfield, W. H. McGee and I. T. Neighbors, and Bros. W. E. Harden, B. F. Clines, with the Moderator and Clerk.

On Preaching, brethren S. L. McAdams, J. E. Woods, W. T. McGee, with deacons of Shiloh church.

On Finance, brethren W. H. Platt, J. W. Montgomery.

On Sabbath Schools, brethren W. J. Coward, B. A. Cash.

On Temperance, brethren John Wallis, A. W. Strickland.

On Deceased ministers, deacons and lay members, J. C. Hickman, B. D. Williams, R. M. Dowdle.

6th. Committee on preaching reports as follows—Eld. J. E. Mathis preach Sabbath at 9 o'clock, Eld. W. Springfield at 11 o'clock, Eld. J. R. Robertson at night.

The Association adjourned, to meet Monday morning, at 8 o'clock.

SABBATH.

Sabbath, 9 o'clock, preaching by Eld. J. E. Mathis, text, Matthew 28; 19, 20; 11 o'clock, preaching by Eld. Woods Springfield, John 3; 14; night, preaching by Eld. J. R. Robertson, Mathew 13: 12.

MONDAY MORNING, 8 O'CLOCK.

The Association met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer, and called to order by the Moderator.

1st. Roll called and delegates answered to their names.

2nd. The Minutes of Saturday were read and approved.

3rd. The committee on documents and order of business recommend the former order of business.

4th. That the next session of the Association be held with Mt. Pleasant church, Lamar county, Alabama, on Saturday before the second Sabbath in October, 1890.

5th. That Eld. J. E. Mathis preach the Introductory Sermon—Eld. I. T. Neighbors alternate.

6th. That Bro. George V. Clardy be continued Treasurer.

7th. That Bro. George V. Clardy superintend the printing of the Minutes, and that he have them printed at the office of the CHRISTIAN HERALD and ENTERPRISE, Pleasant View, Tenn.

8th. That Bro. George V. Clardy be paid five dollars for his services.

9th. That ordained ministers be eligible members in all our annual meetings and that this be added to our rules of decorum.

10th. That we favor Southern Unity, as proposed in the CHRISTIAN HERALD and ENTERPRISE, and that we elect one or more delegates to attend the proposed Convention, in propagating this consolidation.

11th. Whereas it has been norated that we are a constituent member of the General Conference North, therefore resolved that we are not a member and never have been, and that this be published in the CHRISTIAN HERALD and ENTERPRISE.

Report received and committee discharged.

11th. On motion, went into election for delegates to the proposed Convention for consolidation, whereupon Elds. Woods Springfield and W. H. McGee were elected delegates, and Bro. John Wallis alternate.

13th. Committee of finance reported \$18.20 in hand. Collected at the Association \$3.10. Total \$21.30. Allowed clerk for his services \$5.00. Balance on hand \$16.30.

14th. Committee on Sabbath schools made the following report:—

We do not find as much interest taken in Sabbath schools as there should be. We therefore recommend that pastors and all concerned, use their influence to organize Sabbath schools throughout our land and country, where our lots may be cast, for our future prospects depend on the youth of our country. The Savior said "Search the Scriptures, for in them ye think ye have eternal life, and they are they that testify of me. He also said, "Go teach all nations." Brethren, let us work to this all-important duty.

15th. Committee on Temperance made the following report:—

We believe that the intemperate use of intoxicating liquor is one of the greatest evils by which the Christian church is surrounded. Many men who might have been bright and shining lights in the church and ornaments to society have fallen into this evil and are now ruined. In view of this fact, we urge ministers, while warning sinners and professing Christians of the various evils, to make intemperance a special subject.

16th. Committee on deceased ministers, deacons and laymen reported:—

We, your committee, on deceased members, find that we have lost four, to wit.—Sisters Nancy Woods and Mamia Brown, of Mt. Moriah church, sister Huldah Foster, of Antioch church,* have been removed from us by death.

We therefore recommend that we pay them a tribute of respect and append it to our Minutes.

17th. Appointed as corresponding Messengers to the Vernon Association, Elders I. T. Neighbors and J. E. Mathis. Bro. B. F. Clines Corresponding secretary.

*We follow copy, but there is apparently an omission.—Printer.

18th. Ministers reports:—

Eld. J. R. Robertson:—Sermons preached, 83; Burial services, 5; public prayers, 93; members received by letter, 8; by baptism, 10; restored, 10; marriages, 8; miles traveled in the interest of the gospel, 840.

Elder Woods Springfield:—Sermons, 95; funerals, 3; public prayers, 155; temperance lectures, 2; marriages, 3; music schools taught, 4; received by baptism, 38; communions, 8; miles traveled in the interest of the gospel, 1248; in the interest of music, 428.

Elder J. E. Mathis:—Sermons, 431.

The other ministers made no report of their labors, as they had kept no memoranda.

19th. Resolutions.

Resolved, That our thanks are due, and are hereby tendered, to Shiloh church and the citizens of the community for their kind hospitality to us during this session.

On motion, the Association adjourned to meet at Mt. Pleasant church, Lamar county, Alabama, Saturday before the second Sabbath in October, 1890.

An appropriate hymn was sung, and the parting hand was taken, amid tears of joy.

J. R. ROBINSON, Moderator.
Geo. V. CLARDY, Clerk

Minutes of Union Meeting.

The first session of the Union Meeting of the Mt. Moriah Association was held with Holly Springs Church, 2nd, and 3rd. days of August, 1889. Introductory sermon was preached by Eld. I. T. Neighbors. Text, Gallatians, 6th, chapter, 7th and 8th verses. After religious services, a recess of one hour was taken for refreshments, after which the delegates assembled in the house.

1st. On motion, Eld. Woods Springfield was requested to act as Moderator, and Bro Geo. V. Clardy Clerk.

2nd. Letters from the churches were called for, handed in, read and contents noted.

3rd. Went into election for Moderator and Clerk, whereupon Eld. Woods Springfield was elected Moderator, and Geo. V. Clardy, Clerk.

4th. On motion, the order of business used by the Association was adopted for this session of the Union Meeting.

5th. Appointed committees; on order of business, to wit. Elders J. R. Robertson, J. S. Hinton, W. E. Harden, S. L. McAdams, and John Wallis, with Moderator and Clerk.

6th. On preaching, John Hanor, R. E. St. John, J. A. Guin, with deacons of Holly Spring church.

7th. On motion, the queries deferred to the Union Meeting were taken up and discussed. Answers deferred until tomorrow morning.

8th. Committee on preaching made the following report. Eld. J. E. Mathis preach to night, Eld. J. R. Robertson to morrow at 11 o'clock, Eld. J. W. Coward at 3, p. m., Eld. J. S. Hinton at night.

9th. On motion, the Union Meeting adjourned till 8 o'clock tomorrow morning. Preaching at night by Eld. J. E. Mathis. Text, Titus, 3rd chapter, 11th verse. Saturday morning, 8 o'clock, the Union Meeting met

pursuant to adjournment. Prayer, and called to order by the oderator.

1st. Minutes of yesterday read and approved.

2nd. On motion, the following is adopted as answer to query, No. 1. Preach the Gospel of Jesus Chirst, Baptise, administer the elements of the holy communion, travel extensively as possible, and if circumstances will justify devote their whole time and attention to the work of the ministry; to organize churches, visit the sick, bury the dead, solemnize the rites of matrimony, see that the finances of the church are attended to, relieve the sufferings of the poor, preside at all conference meetings, make known the decision of the church, and finally to promote peace and harmony in the churches.

3rd. Answer to query No 2. Their duty is to look after, and contribute to the necessities of the pastor financially, and to defend and protect his character, and see that there is no reproach brought against him unjustly.

4th. On motion, this minute to be numbered first sesion.

5th Committee on order of business made the following report:—We recommend.—

1st. Call for letters from different churches, and names of delegates enrolled.

2nd. Elect moderator and clerk.

3rd. Appointment of committees.

4th. Call for references and discussion of queries.

5th. Call for reports of committees.

6th. Call for communications and new business.

7th. Miscellaneous business.

8th. Resolutions and adjournment.

9th. Queries. 1st What is the unpardonable sin?
2nd. What are our moral duties.

10th. Recommend, that this body decide upon the time and place of holding the next session.

11th. We, the Union Meeting of the Mt. Moriah Association, seeing the necessity of all Freewill Baptists being united in the South in order for a better understanding, recommend that all Associations in the South

take action upon this matter, and that we come together in a general convention as near in the future as possible, for the purpose of organizing a Southern Association.

6th. On motion, report received and committee discharged.

7th. On motion, it is agreed that the next session of this body be held with Tabernacle church, Tuscaloosa Co., Ala., on Friday before the first Sabbath in August, 1890. Introductory sermon to be preached by Eld. J. E. Mathis, Eld. J. W. Coward alternate.

8th. On motion, the secretary is requested to send a copy of the recomendations for Southern Unity, to the *Free-Baptist Enterprise*, and *Baptist Review*, for publication.

9th. The following resolution was offered by Bro. W. E. Harden.

Resolved, That our thanks are due, and are hereby extended to the Holly Springs church and citizens of the community, for their kind hospitality to us during this session.

10th. On motion the Union Meeting adjourned to meet with Tabernacle church, on Friday before the first Sabbath in August, 1890. An appropriate hymn was sung and the parting hand taken.

Eld. W. SPRINGFIELD, Moderator.

GEO. V. CLARDY, Clerk.

DELEGATES.

Mt. Moriah, W. E. Harden, W. Springfield, J. W. Coward, E. Gore and R. St. John.

Macedonia, S. L. McAdams and J. E. Mathis.

Mt. Pleasant, Not represented.

Shiloh, J. H. Hanor, and W. R. Latham.

Tabernacle, J. S. Hinton.

Holly Spring, G. V. Clardy, W. G. Strickland, J. A. and C. A. Lancaster.

Mt. Harmony, T. A. Guinn and A. J. Robertson.

Shady Grove J. Guinn, Jas. Taylor, W. B. Neighbors.

Mt. Zion, Not repesented.

Antioch, J. Wallis, A. J. Taylor, B. D. Williams.

Friendship, Not represented.

Constitution.

Art. 1. This Association shall be known as the Mount Moriah Freewill Baptist Association of Alabama, and be composed of delegates from the different churches composing the same. Each church shall be entitled to three delegates to represent her at each session.

2. This body shall be considered an advisory council, but having no authority over the local affairs of the churches.

3. Each church in this Association shall be considered as an independent body, and shall control her own internal affairs in matters of discipline, etc. She may however, in extreme cases, call in aid from sister churches.

4. All questions on doctrine and matters of general interest shall be settled by a two-thirds vote of the Association, and this decision shall be final.

5. The officers of this Association shall be a Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer, who shall be chosen by a majority vote annually.

6. The Association shall meet annually at such time and place as shall be most convenient, and shall not adjourn finally until all the business is transacted.

7. Churches wishing to become members of the Association must adopt the Articles of Faith and conform to its usages.

8. We agree, as churches composing this Association, to use our best influence to promote the interest of all moral & benevolent institutions, such as the Temperance cause, Sabbath-school, Missionary operations, etc., etc.

Rules of Decorum.

ART. 1. The Association shall be called to order by the Moderator who presided at the last session; former clerk also officiate until the body is fully organized.

2. The Association shall be opened and closed by singing and prayer.

3. The Moderator and Clerk shall be chosen by ballot at each session; a majority of members present elects.

4. The names of delegates from the different churches shall be enrolled, and called as often as may be necessary during the session.

5. A majority of the delegates present shall rule in all cases, except in reception of churches into our body, which must be unanimous.

Mt. Moriah Association,

6. The Moderator shall vote only when the Association is equally divided; but shall have equal right to speak on any subject, provided he appoint some brother present to the chair while he is speaking.

7. Only one person shall speak at a time, who shall rise and address the Moderator.

8. No brother shall be interrupted while speaking unless he depart from the subject in discussion or use words of personal reflection.

9. No person shall be allowed to speak more than twice on the same subject without leave of the body, nor more than fifteen minutes at one time.

10. No member shall laugh or talk during the time the debates are going on.

11. No member shall absent himself from the Association in session without leave of the Moderator.

12. The Moderator shall have the right to call a meeting of the Association at any time upon the petition of two-thirds of the churches composing the Association over which he presides.

Art. 13. Ordained ministers shall be eligible members in all annual meetings.

Articles of Faith.

ART. I. We believe that there is only one true and living God, who is the Supreme Ruler of heaven and earth, self-existent Creator of all things, and revealed under the personal distinction of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost, equal in every divine perfection, and existing in distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of the redemption.

II. We believe the Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired, and is a perfect treasure of Heavenly instruction; that it has God for its author, Salvation for its end, and Truth for its matter; that it reveals the principles by which God will judge us, and therefore is, and shall remain to the end of this world, the center of Christian union, the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds and opinions shall be tried.

III. We believe that man was created holy, under the law of his Maker, but by voluntary transgression fell from that holy state, in consequence of which all mankind are now depraved, and wholly unable of their own free will and ability to recover themselves from the fallen state in which they are by nature.

IV. We believe that God has not fixed the future state of mankind by an absolute and unconditional decree, but salvation is offered in the Gospel free to all, and if sinners are lost forever, it will be their own fault.

V. We believe that Christ, by his death and suffering, made an atonement for the sins of all mankind in general, and every

individual in particular; however, that none but those who believe in Him can be partakers of the divine benefits.

VI. We believe that true faith cannot proceed from the exercise of our natural faculties and powers, or from the force and operation of free will, since man, in consequence of his natural corruption, is incapable either of thinking or doing anything spiritually good.

VII. We believe in a general application of the grace of God to fallen man, sufficiently to enable him morally and actually to obey the requirements of the law of liberty, Jas. 1 ch. 25 v., this is to act saving faith, John, 1 ch., 9 v.; however, none but those who believe or acquiesce in Christ will be saved thereby—Acts, 17: 31; Rom. 2: 19; John, 3: 19.

VIII. We believe in the free moral agency of man, by the grace of God, before and after conversion, and that he is laid under no invincible necessity, by his Creator, to act in any given way; that if he lives after the flesh, he shall die, but if he, through the spirit, do mortify the deeds of the body, he shall live, and therefore man is always a proper subject of admonition and exhortation. Heb. 11: 11, 12, 13; Rom. 12: 14; Mark 13: 13; Eze. 18: 24.

IX. We believe that a visible church of Christ is a congregation of believers, associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the Gospel, observing the ordinances of Christ, governed by his laws, and exercise the gifts, rights and privileges invested in them by His word; and its only proper officers are bishops or pastors or deacons, whose qualifications, claims are defined in the Epistles to Timothy and Titus.

X. We believe that Christian baptism is immersion in water, in the name of Father; Son and Holy Ghost, and that believers are proper subjects.

XI. We believe that the Lord's Supper is of perpetual obligation, by which the members of the church, in the use of bread and wine, are to commemorate together the dying love of Christ, preceded always by solemn self-examination.

XII. We believe in the resurrection of the dead, and the general judgment; that the joys of the righteous, and punishment of the wicked, will be eternal, upon principles of grace and justice.

XIII. We believe in open communion, and the churches of our body are authorized, through their pastors, to invite Christians of all orthodox churches, who are in good standing in their respective churches, to commune with us at the Lord's table.

Ministers' Post-Offices.

ORDAINED MINISTERS.

M. E. Vails,	Military Springs	Lamar, Co.,	Ala.
W. R. Latham,	Koon,	Pickens county,	"
W. H. McGee,	"	"	"
J. S. Hinton,	McConnell.	Tuscaloosa county	"
J. R. Robertson,	Kennedy,	Lamar county,	"
W. Springfield,	Stafford,	Pickens county,	"
I. T. Neighbors,	Anro,	Lamar county,	"
J. H. Jordan,	Millporte.	"	"
Joshua McGee,	Kingville.	"	"
J. E. Mathis,	Millporte.	"	"

LICENSED MINISTERS.

S. W. Williams,	Byars,	Pickens county	Ala.
M. D. McGee,	Kingville,	Lamar	"
J. W. Coward,	Beards,	Pickens	"
W. F. Parker,	Fernbanks,	Lamar	"

STATICTICAL TABLE OF THE MT. MORIAH FREE-WILLBAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

CHURCHES	DELEGATES.	Rec. by Letter.	By Experience.	Dis. by Letter.	Deceased.	Excluded.	Total Members.	For Minutes.	PASTORS.	POST OFFCE OF CHURCHES.
Mt. Moriah.	J. E. Woods, W. E. Harden and A. A. McShan.	3	18	00	2	00	147	\$3.70	Woods Sprzngfield.	Stafford, Ala.
Macedonia	S. L. McAdams, O. B. Harden and J. T. Harden.	7	6	00	1	00	86	2.10	J. E. Mathis.	
Mt. Pleasant.	W. J. Lamkins, F. M. Saylor. and R. M. Dowdle.	00	00	00	00	0	78	2.25	D. G. W. Hollis.	Vernon, Ala.
Shiloh.	J. C. Hickman, W. T. McGee and W. H. Platt.	00	00	00	00	00	59	2.05	Woods Springfield.	Koon, Ala.
Tabernacl.	J. W. Montgomery, J. Shelley and J. R. Logan.	3	00	00	0	00	39	1.60	J. S. Hinton.	McConnel, Ala.
Holly Spring.	G. V. Clardy, H. R. Ledbetter and A. W. Strickland.	2	15	1	00	00	52	2.00	Woods Springfield.	Byars Ala.
Mt. Harmony.	T. A. Guinn, A. J. Robertson and B. F. Clines.	5	2	3	00	00	79	2.25	J. R. Robertson.	Kingville, Ala.
Shady Grove.	W. B. Neighbors, R. A. McCoy and P. A. Johnston.	00	5	00	00	11	53	1.40	J. R. Robertson.	Kennedy Ala.
		00	00	00	00	00	52	1.15		Anro, Ala.
Antioch.	John W. ...						42	4	J. R. Robertson	Fayette C. H. Ala.
Unity.	J. L. Beasley, J. R. Cale and J. F. Hays.								M. D. McGee	
	Totals.	29	49	4	5	14	004	21.80		