

J. R. Springfield

Exhibit 2 So testimony
of J. L. Walker

Minutes

OF THE

Fortieth Annual Session

OF THE

MT. MORIAH ASSOCIATION

OF

Freewill Baptists,

HELD WITH

Mt. Pleasant Church, Lamar County, Alabama,

October, 11-13, 1890.

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NASHVILLE, TENN.:

FREEWILL BAPTIST PUBLISHING CO.

1890.

✂ The word "Fourteenth," in the first line of the next page, should be *Fortieth*, it being the "Fortieth Annual Session" of the Association.—PRINTER.

EXPLANATORY.

To the Brethren of the Mt. Moriah Freewill Baptist Association of Alabama.

No doubt but you think strange of the minutes not being out before now, as they should have been long ago. I prepared the Minutes and forwarded them to the Christian Herald about the first of December, and in about a week's time I received a card from Bro. Williams, stating that he had received the money, but the manuscript had not arrived. I waited, thinking they would go through. About the middle of January, I received another card from Bro. Williams, stating they had not yet arrived. I then concluded it best for me to reproduce them, which has been much trouble to me, to get up all the business connected with them. The Minutes may not be as full as they should be, but it is the best I could do. I hope the brethren will be satisfied with them.

Yours in Christ,

G. V. CLARDY.



Minutes.

The fourteenth Session of the Mt. Moriah Freewill Baptist Association was held with Mt. Pleasant church, Lamar county, Ala., on the 11-13 days of October, 1890. Introductory sermon preached by Eld. J. E. Mathis. Text, John 7: 17.

After religious service, a recess of one hour was taken for refreshments, after which the delegates assembled in the house, and the Association was called to order by Eld. J. R. Robertson, former moderator. Business was conducted in the following order.

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

2. Proceeded to elect a moderator and clerk, whereupon Eld. W. H. McGee was elected moderator and Geo. V. Clardy re-elected clerk.

3. Opened the door for the reception of new churches into our body, whereupon a petitionary letter was presented from Mt. Herman church, said church having been organized upon our articles of faith was unanimously received.

4. On motion, Friendship church was restored back in full fellowship.

5. Called for correspondence from sister associations. Received, as messengers from Vernon Association, Eld. T. W. Springfield, J. A. Brown, P. L. Mattox, W. T.

Butler, T. G. Hariason, S. B. Gosey, G. B. Taylor. The moderator gave them the right hand of fellowship, cordially inviting them to seats with us.

6. The following committees were appointed. On Document and order of Business, Eld. M. E. Vales, W. Springfield, J. E. Mathis, J. R. Robertson, N. S. McShan, with moderator and clerk.

On Preaching, R. S. Fields, A. J. Bass, John Wallis, with deacons of Mt. Pleasant church.

On Temperance, M. D. McGee, C. A. Lancaster.

On Finance, B. A. Cash, O. B. Harden.

On Sabbath Schools, J. R. Robertson, E. P. Rhodes.

On Deceased Ministers, Deacons, &c., W. E. Harden, J. F. Hays.

7. Committee on Preaching made the following report, Eld. J. A. Brown, preach to night; W. H. McGee, 9 o'clock A. M., Sabbath; Thos. Molloy, at 11 o'clock; Woods Springfield, at night.

8. On motion, the Association adjourned to meet Monday morning, 8 o'clock.

Saturday night, preaching by Eld. J. A. Brown. Text.—; 9 o'clock, A. M. Sabbath, preaching by Eld. W. H. McGee, Text 116 Psalm, 12—13 verses; at 11 o'clock Eld. Thos. Molloy preached to a large and attentive congregation. Text Math. 16; 15—20 Sabbath night, preaching by Eld. Woods Springfield. Text Hebrews, 13; 14.

MONDAY MORNING, 8 o'clock.

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

1. The moderator read the Rules of Decorum.

2. On Motion, Eld. J. R. Robertson was appointed as assistant moderator.

3. Roll called, and delegates answered to their names.

4. Minutes of Saturday read and approved.

5. Committee on Documents and Order of Business made their report as follows;

Recommend (1.) That the next session of the Association be held with Macedonia Church, on Saturday before the second Sabbath in October, 1891.

(2.) That W. H. McGee preach the introductory sermon; J. R. Robertson alternate.

(3.) That Bro. G. V. Clardy be continued as Treasurer.

(4.) That Bro. G. V. Clardy superintend the publication of the minutes, and that we allow him five dollars for his services.

(5.) That we elect one delegate to represent us in the General Association that is to convene at Hartselle, Ala., on Thursday before the second Sabbath in Dec., 1890, and that we contribute funds to defray his expenses.

(6.) That we pay the amount pledged by our delegate at the last session of the General Association; provided the following condition is complied with, to wit, when nine hundred dollars have been paid elsewhere, the Mt Moriah Association to pay one hundred dollars.

(7.) That the moderator appoint one member of each church to take up collections in their respective churches, in order to raise the amount pledged, and that the amount collected be forwarded to the treasury of the General Association.

M. E. VALES, Chairman.

6. On motion, report received and committee discharged.

7. On motion, the report was taken up and considered by sections, which resulted in the adoption of the whole.

8. The moderator appointed the senior deacon of

each church to take up collections for the amount pledged.

9. Committee on Temperance made the following report;

We believe that the intemperate use of intoxicating liquors 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.

10. 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,

11. Committee on Finance reported, \$19.60 in hand. Collected at the Association, \$2.15. Total \$21.75. Allowed clerk for his services \$5.00 Balance on hand, \$16.75.

12. Committee on Deceased Ministers, Deacons and Laymen, reported:

We your committee on deceased find that we have lost since last session eight, to wit, Martin Lawrence, and W. F. Denmon of Mt. Pleasant church, the latter being a Deacon of long standing, sister Narcissa Lee of Mt. Moriah church, sister Matilda Hull, of Mt. Harmony church, F. M. Cash, Mary J. Weathers, Martha C. Howard, of Mt. Zion church, sister Moriah Hays, of

Unity church, have been removed from us by death. We therefore recommend that we pay them a tribute of respect and append to our minutes.

13. Appointed as corresponding messengers to Vernon Association Eld. I. T. Neighbors, J. R. Robertson, I. P. Robertson, John Wallis, and that J. R. Robertson write the corresponding letter.

14. On motion, went into election for delegate to General Association, whereupon Eld. Woods Springfield was elected delegate; Eld. W. H. McGee alternate.

Ministers Reports

Eld Woods Springfield; sermons preached, 82; public prayers, 160; communions, 5; singing schools taught, 5; sabbath schools organized, 2; funerals preached, 6; churches dedicated, 1; marriages, 5; members received by letter, 3; by baptism, 29; miles traveled in interest of the gospel, 1317; ministers ordained, 1; miles traveled in interest of music, 389.

Eld. J. E. Mathis; sermons preached, 53; public prayers, 98; communions, 2; funerals preached, 3; marriages, 4; members received by letter, 2; by baptism, 9; miles traveled in interest of the gospel, 690.

Other ministers failed to make a record of their work.

Resolutions.

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

On motion, the Association adjourned, to meet at Macedonia church, Pickens Co., Ala., Saturday before the second Sabbath in October, 1891.

An appropriate hymn was sung and the parting hand taken amid tears commingled with sorrow and joy.

W. H. MCGEE, Moderator.

G. V. CLARDY, Clerk.

Union Meeting.

The second session of the Union Meeting of the Mt. Moriah Association was held with Tabernacle church, Tuscaloosa Co., Ala., on the 1st. and 2nd. days of August, 1890.

Introductory sermon preached by Eld. J. E. Mathis. Text, John 6; 63. After religious services, a recess of one hour was taken for refreshments; after which the body was called to order by Eld. W. Springfield, former moderator. Business conducted in the following order;

1. Letters from the different churches called for, handed in, read, and contents noted.
2. Went into election for moderator and clerk, whereupon Eld. W. Springfield elected moderator, G. V. Clardy re-elected clerk.
3. Appointed committee on Order of Business, to wit, M. R. Latham, J. E. Mathis, W. J. Coward J. S. Hinton, W. M. Strickland, with moderator and clerk. On preaching, B. F. Cash, E. P. Rhodes, with deacons of Tabernacle church.
4. On motion, Query No. one. (unpardonable sin,) deferred to this meeting, taken up, discussed, and deferred to committee on Order of Business. Discussion of Query No. two, deferred till to morrow morning:
5. Committee on Preaching reported, Eld. W. R. Latham preach at 3:30, P. M., J. S. Hinton at 9. o'clock, A. M. Saturday, Woods Springfield at 11.
6. On motion Union meeting adjourned till 8. o'clock Saturday morning.

At 3:30 Eld. W. R. Latham preached. Text Job. 14; 12.

Saturday morning, 8 o'clock. Union Meeting met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer, and called to order by moderator.

1. Query No. 2. taken up, discussed, and the following is adopted as answer; Do unto others as ye would that they should do unto you.

2. Adjourned till after preaching. Eld. J. S. Hinton preached. Text, St. John, 3; 1-15. After preaching, conference called to order by the moderator.

3. Committee on Order of Business submitted the following report;

Recommend: (1.) That we adopt the former order of business.

(2.) That we divide the Association into two districts, and that the first district be composed of Mt. Moriah, Holly Springs, Macedonia, Unity, Mt. Pleasant and Mt. Harmony Churches;

Second district be composed of Shiloh, Antioch, Tabernacle, Shady Grove and Mt. Zion Churches, and that they be held semi-annually, in the months of January and July.

(3.) That the first session of the first district be held with Macedonia church, on Saturday before the first Sabbath in January 1891, and that Eld. Woods Springfield preach the introductory sermon, Eld. M. D. McGee, alternate.

(4.) That the first session of the second district be held with Shiloh Church, on Saturday before the 3rd. Sabbath in January 1891, and that Eld. J. S. Hinton preach the introductory sermon, Eld. J. R. Robertson alternate.

(5.) That the denying the power of the Holy Spirit

it and teaching a false doctrine be the answer to query No. one.

(6.) That each church be required to make a financial report to each Association, of how much money raised, and how appropriated.

(7.) Query No. 1. What is the first resurrection?—to be opened by Eld. W. R. Latham.

Query No. 2. Can man live a sanctified life?, to be opened by Eld. J. E. Mathis.

7. Report received and committee discharged.

Resolved. That our thanks are heartily tendered to Tabernacle church and citizens of the community for their kind hospitality toward us during this session.

Adjourned for preaching; by Eld W. Springfield.
Text John 10; 16. After which a hymn sung and parting hand taken.

W. SPRINGFIELD, Moderator.

G. V. CLARDY, Clerk.

ROLL OF DELEGATES.

Mt. Moriah, Woods Springfield, W. J. Coward, T. E. Woods.

Macedonia, J. E. Mathis, J. S. Cox, J. D. Byars.

Mt Pleasant, not represented.

Shiloh, W. R. Latham, W. H. Platt, and J. McGee.

Tabernacle, J. S. Hinton, J. R. Logan, W. C. &c. J. C. Montgomery.

Holly Springs, W. M. Strickland, E. P. Rhodes.

Mt. Harmony, not represented.

Shady Grove, " "

Mt. Zion, " "

Antioch, " "

Unity, " "

Articles of Faith.

ARTICLE 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 Father, Son and Holy Ghost, equal in every divine perfection, and existing in distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of 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 the world, the centre of Christian union, the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds and opinions shall be tried.

III. We believe that man was holy, under the law of his maker, but by voluntary transgression fell from that 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 sufferings, made an atonement for the sins of all mankind in general, and every individual in particular, however 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 or 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. 1:25; this is to act saving faith—John 1:8; 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 on him is laid no invincible necessity, by his Creator, to act in any given way. 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; man therefore is always a proper subject of admonition and exhortation.—Heb. 11:11, 12, 13; Rom. 12:14; Mark 13:13; Ez. 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 ordinance of Christ, governed by his law, and exercise the gifts, rights and privileges invested in them by his word; and that its only proper officers are bishops or pastors and deacons, whose qualifications, claims and duties are defined in the Epistle to 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 judgement, 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.

Constitution.

ARTICLE. I. This Association shall be known as the Mt. 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 of this Association shall be considered as an independent body, and shall control her own internal affairs in matters of discipline, &c. 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 vote 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 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 this 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 and benevolent institutions, such as the temperance cause, sabbath schools, missionary operations, &c. &c.

Rules of Decorum.

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

2. The Association shall be opened and closed with 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 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.

6. The moderator shall vote in no case, 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 departs 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 power to call the association together at any time upon a petition of two-thirds of the churches composing the association over which he presides.

Statistics.

CHURCHES.	DELEGATES	PASTORS.	Rec'd. by exp'e	By letter	Dismissed.	Deceased.	Excluded.	No. members	Cont & tributo
Mt. Moriah,	N. S. & H. A. McShan,	W. E. Harden	10	3	6	1	6	148	3,00
Mt. Pleasant,	M. V. Brewer	H. Stacey, J. Bass,		7	1	2		75	2,00
Macedonia,	J. Stokes, O. B. Harden,	R. S. Fields,	3				1	88	2,00
Shiloh,	J. Brown, T. C. Sexton,	W. R. Latham,						29	1,10
Tabernacle,	W. C. & J. W. Montgomery,	J. W. Shelby,	2		2			34	1,40
Holly Springs	H. W. Gullyham, E. P. Rhodes, C. A. Lancaster,	J. S. Hinton,							
		W. Springfield,	13	1			1	70	2,00
Mt. Harmony	L. P. Robertson, H. M. Ayers, B Williams,	M. D. McGee,	17	1	1			95	2,00
Shady Grove	J. Guin, J. R. Fowler,	J. R. Robertson,	2		2		2	51	85
Mt. Zion,	W. B. Weathers, B. A. Cash, G. L. Proper,	J. A. Brown,	2		2	3	3	49	1,10
Antioch,	J. Wallis, J. Black, George Johnston,	J. R. Robertson,	2				2	32	1,00
Unity,	J. R. Cole, J. L. Beasley, J. F. Hays,	M. D. McGee,	3		1	1		20	1,15
Mt. Harmon,	J. A. McGee, J. Vaughn,	W. H. McGee,						16	1,25
Friendship,	J. Cooper,	M. D. McGee,						12	65
13	34	9	54	12	15	7	15	719	19,60

ORDAINED MINISTERS.

1. Eld. M. E. Vail, Military Springs, Lamar Co., Ala.
2. " W. R. Latham, Keon, Pickens County, "
3. " W. H. McGee, " " " "
4. " J. M. Hinton, McConnell, Tuscaloosa Co., "
5. " J. R. Robertson, Kennedy, Lamar County, "
6. " Woods Springfield, Byars, Pickens Co., "
7. " I. T. Neighbors, Anro, Lamar County, "
8. " J. H. Jordan, Millport, " " "
9. " J. E. McGee, Kingsville, " " "
10. " J. E. Mathis, Millport, " " "
11. " S. W. Williams, Byars, Pickens " "
12. " M. D. McGee, Kingsville, Lamar " "

LICENSED MINISTERS.

1. J. W. Coward, Beards, Pickens County, Ala.
2. W. F. Parker, Farnbanks, Lamar " "