

MINUTES
OF THE
Forty-Second Annual Session
OF THE
MOUNT MORIAH
Freewill Baptist Association

CONVENED WITH
Antioch Church, Fayette Courty, Alabama,
October 8th and 10th, 1892.

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OFFICERS:

WOODS SPRINGFIELD,	MODERATOR.
G. V. CLARDY.	CLERK.

The next session of this Association will meet with Tabernacle Church,
Tuscaloosa county, Alabama, and will convene on Saturday
before the second Sunday in October, 1893.

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PROCEEDINGS.

The Forty second annual session, of the Mount Moriah Freewill Baptist Association, was held with Antioch Church, Fayette county, Alabama, October 8th, 1892.

The introductory sermon was preached by Rev. R. A. Pinkerton, text 2nd Corinthians, 13th chapter 11th verse. After religious services a recess of one hour was taken for refreshments, and then the ministers and delegates were requested to meet in the house to proceed to business.

The Association met pursuant to adjournment. The opening service was conducted by Rev. Woods Springfield the former Moderator. Brother Springfield then called the body to order, and business was transacted as follows, viz:

1st. Letters from the different churches were called for, handed in and read, and the names of delegates enrolled as per statical table.

2nd. Proceeded to elect a Moderator and Clerk; whereupon Rev. Woods Springfield was re-elected Moderator, and brother G. V. Clardy was re-elected Clerk.

3rd. Opened the door for the reception of new churches—None presented.

4th. Called for correspondence from sister Associations, and received Rev. B. W. Nash, editor of THE BAPTIST REVIEW and a correspondent of Union Association of N. C. The Moderator extended the right hand of fellowship and cordially invited brother Nash to a seat with us.

5th. The following committees were then appointed, viz:

ON THE ORDER OF BUSINESS—Brethren R. S. Fields, S. W. Williams, W. E. Harden, J. R. Robertson, W. R. Latham, with the Moderator and Clerk.

ON PREACHING—Brethren W. B. Montgomery, T. A. Guin, T. M. Baily, with the Deacons of Antioch Church.

ON TEMPERANCE—Brethren J. D. Byars, G. W. Springfield and J. G. Pierson.

ON FINANCE—Brethren W. V. Curry, J. Beasley and H. M. Fulghum.

ON SABBATH SCHOOLS—Brethren J. E. Matthis and T. P. Cunningham.

ON DECEASED—Brethren J. N. Stuckey, G. B. Johnson and B. F. Cluis.

6th. Committee on preaching report that Bro. J. D. Byars preach to-morrow at 9 o'clock; Rev. B. W. Nash preach at 11 o'clock; and Rev. J. E. Mathis preach at night.

7th. On motion, letters of dismission were granted to the following named churches by their own request to join the Vernon Association, to wit: Mt. Pleasant, Mt. Harmony, Shady Grove, Mt. Zion and Unity.

8th. Whereas, Macedonia Church recommends to the Association brother J. D. Byars as a minister, and ask that he be set forth to the full functions of the gospel. The following brethren were chosen as a presbytery, for the ordination of brother Byars, to wit: Rev. J. R. Robertson, Rev. Wood Springfield and Rev. J. E. Mathis.

9th. On motion, the Association adjourned to meet Monday morning 9 o'clock.

SERVICES ON SABBATH.

At 9 o'clock, brother Byars preached from Matt. 7c. 7v. At the close of his sermon, he was ordained and set apart to the work of the ministry by the presbytery previously named, Rev. Wood Springfield conducting the service.

At 11 o'clock, Rev. B. W. Nash preached from Matthew 7th chapter, 14th verse. The argument was in support of our liberal Baptist doctrines, and was an able sermon delivered to a large and attentive congregation.

At night, Rev. J. E. Mathis preached from Matt 26th chapter, and 40th verse. The congregation was large and attentive, and the sermon was able and interesting.

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MONDAY MORNING, October 10th, 1892.

The Association met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer and called to order by the Moderator. Roll is called and the delegates answer to their names. Minutes of Saturday are read and approved.

Renewed the invitation to visiting ministers to take seats with us. Whereupon, Revs. J. A. Brown, G. T. Harrison and S. B. Gosey, of the Vernon Association, came forward and were received, the Moderator extending the right hand of fellowship.

Committee on the Order of Business submit their report as follows, viz: 1. We recommend that the next session of the Association be held with Tabernacle Church, Tuscaloosa county, Ala. 2. That Rev. Woods Springfield preach the

introductory sermon; and that Rev. W. R. Latham be the alternate. 3. That G. V. Clardy be continued as Treasurer. 4. That the Clerk superintend the printing of the minutes. 5. That we allow the Clerk five dollars for his services. 6. That we take steps as to mission work. 7. That the ministers of this Association be constituted a Committee on publication, with the Moderator to act as chairman, and that this Committee report to this Association.

R. S. FIELDS, Chairman.

On motion, the report was taken up and considered by sections, and after due consideration, it was adopted, and the committee discharged.

On motion, the roll of churches was called in order to ascertain how much each church would contribute to the mission fund. The churches responded as follows, viz: Mt. Moriah \$5 00, Macedonia \$1 00, Mt. Hermon \$2 00, Union \$5 00—Total \$13 00.

On motion, an Executive Committee of five was appointed to take charge of the mission work. The following brethren are appointed as said committee: W V Curry, J G Pierson, J W Wallis, J N Stuckey and W E Hardin.

Reports of Committees are called for and presented as follows, viz:

Committee on Finance report \$18 15 in their hands.

Committee on Sabbath Schools. We find there is a dearth in Sabbath Schools in our denomination, and believing that the Sabbath School is one of our best institutions and is a factor in the upbuilding of all Christian churches. Youth is the time to make good and lasting impressions. Therefore, we are commanded to teach all nations, and we urge our ministers and all who are concerned to make an earnest effort to build up the Sabbath School interest. We recommend that each School exercise their own judgment in the selection of Literature. But we recommend to all the Bible as the best Literature, but do not object to helps.

J. E. MATHIS, Chairman.

Committee on Temperance. 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 against the various evils to make intemperance a special subject.

J. D. BYARS, Chairman.

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Committee on Deceased. We find that we have lost by death since our last session eight of our members as follows, to wit: Bro. William Ledbetter, of Holly Springs Church. Sister M. J. Burgin and brother H. A. Weathers, of Mount Zion Church. Sister Watley, of Union Church. Sister Connell, of Tabernacle Church. Brother H. M. Ayers and sister M A Williams, of Mount Harmony Church. Sister E A Weaver, of Mount Moriah Church. The above having been removed from us by death; we therefore recommend that we pay a tribute of respect to their memory by appending their names to our minutes.

J. N. STUCKEY, Chairman.

Committee on Publication. Whereas, we the Mount Moriah Freewill Baptist Association, feel the great importance of closer union with our sister Associations and a more thorough understanding and education of the principles of the liberal Baptist in the South; and whereas, we have been and still claim to be a constituent member of the Southern Baptist Association; and whereas THE BAPTIST REVIEW is the organ of the above named Association; and that the REVIEW has been adopted by this Association:

Resolved 1st. That we adopt the Southern Baptist Association and the Literature of the same. We further recommend to our members a closer and prayerful study of the Bible as the purest and best of all Literature.

WOODS SPRINGFIELD, Chairman.

On motion, the report is adopted with much pleasure.

We the Executive Committee appoint brethren to aid us in getting up the mission funds at the different Churches as follows: Union, A R Clayton; Mount Hermon Elbert Hood; Tabernacle, J T Cunningham; Holly Springs, W L Stuckey; Antioch, A J Taylor; Mount Moriah, J E Woods; Macedonia, J S Cox; Shiloh, J Brown.

J N Stuckey secretary, W. V. CURRY, Chairman.

On motion, the following brethren were appointed as corresponding messengers to the Vernon Association, Rev. S W Williams and J D Byars and brethren A J Taylor and J S Cox.

MINISTER'S REPORTS.

Rev. Woods Springfield reports sermons preached 123; public prayers 175; funerals preached 9; communion services conducted 8; received by letter and restoration 22; received by baptism 54; two marriages; music schools taught 7; traveled in the interest of the Gospel 825 miles; in the interest of music 300 miles.

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Rev. S W Williams reports sermons preached 40; public prayers 61; miles traveled 400; members baptized 14.

Rev. J D Byars reports sermons preached 12; public prayers 39; members received 20. Other ministers of the Association failed to make a record of their work.

On motion, by brother J N Stuckey, a vote of thanks is given to Antioch Church and the citizens of this community for kindness and hospitality shown to members and visitors of the Association during our session.

The following was presented by Rev. Woods Springfield, and on motion, was unanimously adopted.

Resolved 1st. That we tender our thanks to Rev. B. W. Nash for his presence among us, and the able manner he has aided us at this session of our Association.

On motion, the Association adjourned to meet at Tabernacle Church, Tuscaloosa county, Ala., on Saturday before the second Sunday in October 1893. An appropriate hymn was sung, and the parting hand was taken amid tears of joy.

WOODS SPRINGFIELD, Moderator.

G. V. CLARDY, Clerk.

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ROLL OF DELEGATES.

Mt. Moriah—W E Hardin, H A McShan, F L Smith.

Macedonia—J D Byars, J D Stokes.

Mt. Pleasant—Not Represented.

Shiloah—J H Hannab, J H Pinkerton.

Tabernacle—W B Montgomery, J T Baily.

Holly Springs—J N Stuckey, E P Rhodes.

Mt. Hermon—W McGee, T M Baily.

Union—W V Curry, A K Clayton.

Mt. Harmony—Not Represented.

Shady Grove—“

Mt. Zion—“

Antioch—“

Unity—“

Friendship—“

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UNION MEETING.

The third session of the Union Meeting of the Mt. Moriah Freewill Baptist Association, was held with Mt. Hermon Church, August 5th and 6th, 1892.

The introductory sermon was preached by Rev. Woods Springfield; text, Proverbs 24c 6v. After religious services a recess of one hour was taken for refreshments. After which the delegates assembled in the house and the Union Meeting was called to order by Elder J. E. Mathis, former Moderator. Prayer by Elder W. R. Latham. Business conducted in the following order.

1st. Letters from the different churches called for, handed in, read and contents noted

2d. Proceeded to elect a Moderator and Clerk, whereupon Rev. Woods Springfield was elected Moderator, and G. V. Clardy was re-elected Clerk.

3d. Committees were appointed as follows, viz:

On the Order of Business, Revs. W. H. McGee; J. E. Mathis, W. R. Latham, brethren W. McGee, W. E. Hardin with the Moderator and Clerk.

On preaching, brethren J. D. Stokes, E. P. Rhodes and the Deacons of Mt. Hermon Church.

On Resolutions and Queries, brethren J. S. Hinton, S. W. Williams, J. N. Stuckey, W. B. Montgomery and J. T. Baily.

On assignments, brethren J. Springer; J. D. Vaughn and T. M. Baily.

4th. On motion, Queries deferred until this meeting were taken up. 1st. What is the Millenium? After discussion, the Question was referred to the following committee; Rev. W. H. McGee, R. A. Pinkerton and brother W. McGee.

5th. Committee on preaching report that Rev. J. E. Mathis preach at 4 o'clock p. m.; Rev. W. H. McGee preach to-morrow at 11 o'clock a. m.; Rev. S. W. Williams preach at 4 o'clock p. m.; and Rev. Woods Springfield preach at 11 o'clock on Sunday.

6th. On motion, the meeting adjourned to meet 9 o'clock Saturday morning.

At 4 o'clock Rev. J. E. Mathis preached an interesting and edifying sermon. Text 2nd Corinthians. 5c, and 10v.

Saturday Morning 9 o'clock.

The Union Meeting met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer and called to order by the Moderator.

1st. Query No. 2 was taken up: Should our ministers have a theological education?

2nd. On motion, the Moderator is requested to appoint some brother to open the discussion; whereupon, Rev. R. A.

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Pinkerton was appointed. After discussion of the Query, a motion was made to table it, and it was carried.

3rd. Committee on the order of business made their report as follows: 1. Recommend that we adopt the former order of business. 2. That the next session of the Union Meeting be held with Shiloh Church and that it convene on Friday before the 3rd Sabbath in July, 1893. 3rd Rev. S. W. Williams preach the introductory sermon; Rev. J. D. Byars be the alternate. 4th. That this body consider the proposition made by Rev. R. W. Nash, for the consolidation of all Freewill and Free communion Baptists in the South.

W. H. MCGEE Chairman.

On motion, the report was received and com. discharged.

On motion, the Meeting adjourned for preaching. Brother McGee filled the stand and delivered a very edifying and instructive sermon to an attentive congregation.

After preaching a recess was taken for refreshments.

The body met and was called to order by the Moderator. 1st Called for report of committee on answer to Query No. 1. Answer we will wait and see. Report received and the committee discharged.

Committee on Resolutions submitted the following. 1st That this body ask the Association to devise a plan by which an Evangelist can be put in the field during the next associational year. Resolved 2nd. That this body extend to the Mt. Hermon Church and citizens of this community our sincere thanks for kindness shown to members and visitors of the Union Meeting during our stay with them.

Query 1st what was the key given to Peter to bind or loose? Opened by Rev. W. H. McGee. What is the duty of churches to their pastors. Opened by Rev. R. A. Pinkerton. Query 3rd, What is the duty of pastors to their churches? Opened by Rev. Woods Springfield.

J. S. HINTON, Chairman.

Report received and the committee discharged.

Report of the committee on the order of business was taken up, and considered by sections. Sections 1, 2 and 3 adopted in full. Section 4 taken up and considered. After consideration it was unanimously agreed that we invite delegates from the various Associations of liberal Baptists to meet with the Mt. Moriah Association, for the purpose of considering the propriety of union among all our Associations in the South. Also that the Clerk inform brother Nash of the action of this body, and request him to be with us at the next session of our Association.

On motion, the Union Meeting adjourned to meet with Shiloh Church Friday before the 3rd Sabbath in July 1893.

WOODS SPRINGFIELD, Moderator.

G. V. CLARDY, Clerk.

ARTICLES OF FAITH.

ARTICLE 1. We believe there is 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 distinctions of Father, Son and Holy Ghost, equal in every divine perfection, and existing in distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption.

ART. 2. 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 centre of Christian union, the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds and opinions will be tried.

ART. 3. We believe that man was created holy, under the law of his Maker but from voluntary transgression fell from that happy 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.

ART. 4. We believe that God has not fixed the future state of mankind by an absolute and unalterable decree, but salvation is offered in the Gospel free to all, and if sinners are lost forever it will be their own fault.

ART. 5. 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, that none but those who believe in Him can be partakers of the divine benefits.

ART. 6. 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.

ART. 7. We believe in the general application of the grace of God to fallen man sufficient to enable him morally and actually to obey the requirements of the law of liberty. Ja. 1c. 25v.; this is to act saving faith. John 1c., 9v. However, none but those who believe or acquiesce in Christ will be saved thereby,—Acts 17, 32; Rom. 2, 19; John 3, 19.

ART. 8. We believe in the free moral agency of man, by the grace of God, before and after conversion, that he is laid under no invincible necessity, by his Creator to act in a 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. 11-12, 13; Rom. 12, 14; Mark 13, 12; Eze. 1, 24 Rev. 2 and 3c.; Eze. 33, 13 and 28; 1st Tim. 4, 1; Heb. 3, 5; 1st Cor. 10, 12 and 22v.; 1st Peter 1, 10.

ART. 9. We believe that a visible church of Christ is a congregation of believers, associated by covenant in the faith of 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; that its only proper officers are bishops or pastors and deacons, whose qualifications, claims and duties are defined in the Epistles to Timothy and Titus.

ART. 10. We believe that Christian Baptism is immersion in water, in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, and that believers are the proper subjects.

ART. 11. We believe the Lord's Supper is of perpetual obligation, by which the members of the church, in the case of bread and wine, are to commemorate together the dying love of Christ, preceded always by solemn self-examination.

ART. 12. 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.

ART. 13. We believe in open or mixed 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.

ORDAINED MINISTERS AND THEIR POST OFFICES.

Rev. W R LATHAM, Koon, Pickens county, Ala.

“ W H MCGEE, Koon, Pickens county, Ala.

“ J H HINTON, McConnell, Tuscaloosa Co., Ala.

“ W SPRINGFIELD, Byars, Pickens Co., Ala.

“ J E MATHIS, Millport, Lamar county, Ala.

“ S W WILLIAMS, Byars, Pickens county, Ala.

“ R A PINKERTON, Koon, Pickens county, Ala.

“ J D BYARS, Millport, Lamar county, Ala.

LICENTIATE MINISTERS.

J W COWARD, Beards, Pickens county, Ala.

W F PARKER, Fernbanks, Lamar county, Ala.

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CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE 1. This Association shall be known as the Mount Moriah Freewill Baptist Association, of Ala., and being composed of delegates from the different churches forming the same, each church being entitled to three delegates.

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

3. Each church in this Association shall be considered an advisory body, and shall control its own internal affairs in matters of discipline, &c. It may however in extreme cases, call aid from sister churches.

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

5. The officers of the Association shall be a Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer, who shall be chosen at each session by a majority of votes.

6. This Association shall meet annually at such time and place as may be agreed upon by a previous annual session, and shall not adjourn finally until all the business is transacted.

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

8. We agree as churches of 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 work, &c.

(11)
RULES OF DECORUM.

ARTICLE 1. The Association shall be called to order by the moderator who presided at the last session. Former Clerk also officiating until the body is fully organized.

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

3. The Moderator and Clerk shall be chosen by ballot at each session of the Association. A majority of votes by the delegates 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 delegates present shall rule in all cases, except in the reception of churches, then it must be unanimous.

6. The Moderator shall not be entitled to vote, except in case of a tie; and then he shall give the deciding vote. He shall be entitled to speak on any question after others have spoken, providing he appoints some one to the chair while he is speaking.

7. Only one person shall speak at the same time, who shall arise and address the Moderator.

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

9. No person shall be allowed to speak more than twice on the same subject, without leave from the Association nor more than fifteen minutes at a 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 without leave of the Moderator.

12. The Moderator shall have 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.

STATISTICAL TABLE FOR 1892.

CHURCHES AND COUNTIES	NAMES OF DELEGATES.	PASTORS.	CLERKS AND POST OFFICES.	Baptized	Rec'd on Conf.	Rec'd by Letter	Dis by Letter	Restored	Lied	Excluded	Days of Meeting	No. of Members	Paid for Minutes
Mt. Moriah, Pickens co., Ala.	W E Hardin, F L Smith, J E Woods....	W Springfield...	F L Smith, Stafford's Mill....	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	45	2 25
Macedonia, Lamar county..	R S Fields, J S Cox, J D Byars.....	J E Mathis.....	J T Hardin, Millport.....	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	2 25
Shiloah, Pickens county....	J Brown, W R Latham, F C Sexton	R A Pinkerton...	J H Hannah, Koon.....	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	2 25
Tabernacle, Tuscaloosa co...	J R Logan, W B Montgomery J. T. C....	W Springfield...	J T Cunningham, McComa....	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Holy Springs, Pickens co....	G V Clardy, J N Stuckey, H W Fulghum	W Springfield...	C A Lancaster, Byars.....	2	...	...	7	...	1	2	...	8	2 00
Antioch, Fayette county.....	A J Taylor, J Williams, G B Johnson...	J R Robertson..	A J Taylor, Coven.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	30	1 20
Mt. Herman.....	J G Pierson, T M Bally, W E Hood.....	W Springfield...	J A McGee, Fox.....	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	1 25
Union.....	W V Curry, G W Springfield J W Powell	W Springfield...	A K Clayton, Stephen's Mill..	1	...	2	...	...	1	3	...	31	2 00
.....	.....	.....	Total.....	62	...	27	16	...	4	15	...	283	15 65