

MINUTES
OF THE
Forty-Nineth Annual Session
OF THE
MOUNT MORIAH
FREEWILL BAPTIST
Association,
HELD WITH
MT. MORIAH CHURCH,
Pickens county, Ala.
October 7, and 9, 1899

OFFICERS:

Wm. E. Hardin, Moderator.
Thomas Alexander, Clerk.

PROCEEDINGS

The forty-ninth annual session of the Mount Moriah Freewill Baptist Association of Alabama was held at Mount Moriah church, Pickens county, Ala., Oct. 7th and 9th 1899. The introductory sermon was preached by Elder J. D. Byars. His text was 2nd Tim. 4:5. After preaching an hour and a half was taken for recreation and refreshment. In due time the ministers and messengers repaired to the house, and after singing and prayer the Association was called to order by Bro. Wm E. Hardin, former moderator, the former clerk officiating until the body was organized. The business was transacted in the following order.

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

2nd. Proceeded to elect moderator and clerk whereupon Bro. Wm E. Hardin was elected Moderator and Thomas Alexander Clerk.

3rd. Opened the door for the reception of new churches. Received none.

4th. Called for corresponding messengers from sister Associations, whereupon Eld. G B Taylor and Bros. James H. Cash and William Wallace from Vernon Association were received and extended the right-hand of brotherly love and christian greeting and conducted to seats with us by the moderator.

5th. Invited visiting brethren to seats with us.

6th. The following committees were appointed:

On Order of Business—Elds. W H McGee, Woods Springfield, J D Byars, W R Latham and W J Coward with moderator and clerk.

On Devotional Service—Bros. R S Fields, W B Montgomery and J A Pool with deacons of Mount Moriah church.

On Temperance—Eld. C J Blake and Bro. George V Clardy.

On Finance—Bro. H A McShan, and Isaiah Fields.

On Sunday School—Eld. J M Pinkerton and Bro. A J Taylor.

On Deceased—Bros. W R Pearson, and W L Strickland.

On Resolutions—Bros. T M Bailey and J E Reynolds.

ON DEVOTIONAL SERVICES.

We, your committee, beg leave to report that Eld.

J M Pinkerton preach Saturday at 7:30 p. m.; Eld. C J Blake Sunday, at 9 a. m.; Eld. W H McGee at 11 a. m.; Eld. W R Latham at 3 p. m.; Eld. George B Taylor at 7:30 p. m., and Rev. J E Strickland Monday at 11 a. m.

Respectfully submitted,

W. B. Montgomery, Chairman.

On motion the report was adopted and committee discharged.

The business of the day being concluded the Association adjourned until Monday morning 8 o'clock.

Elder J M Pinkerton preached Saturday at 7:30 p. m. His text was Rom. 8:1.

SERVICE SUNDAY.

Eld. C J Blake preached at 9 a. m. His text was Luke 9:62. Eld. W H McGee preached at 11 a. m. His text was Rev. 2:10. Eld. W R Latham preached at 3 p. m. His text was Eph. 2:8 9. Eld. George B Taylor Preached at 7:30 p. m. His text was Zech 9:12 The sermons were all delivered to an orderly and attentive concourse of people.

MONDAY MORNING OCT. 9.

The Association met pursuant to adjournment. After service in song and prayer and having the rules of decorum read the moderator called the body to order.

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

2nd. Minutes of Saturday were read and approved. Query No. 2. What does Noah's Ark and the window in the top represent? was now taken up and after some discussion, on motion, this was rendered in answer: We believe they represent our blessed Redeemer.

3rd. Reports of committees called for, and presented as follows:

ON ORDER OF BUSINESS.

We, your committee, beg leave to report (1) That we proceeded after the usual order of business (2) That the next annual session of this body be held at Antioch church, that Elder Woods Springfield preach the introductory sermon and Elder J D Byars be his alternate, (3) That Bro Thomas Alexander be continued as Treasurer; that he superintend the printing of the minutes and that he be allowed \$5 for his service. (4) That we appoint corresponding messengers to meet with Vernon Freewill Baptist Association to be held at Union Chapel church in Lamar county, Ala., commencing on Saturday before the 3rd Sunday in October, 1899. (5) That Elder W H McGee be appointed an evangelist to labor

at and with the various churches within the bounds of Mount Moriah Association when health and circumstances will admit, and to organize churches wherever he deems advisable, and that the various churches renumerate him for his service. (6) That the various churches use their discretion as to the use of the treatise.

Respectfully submitted,

W H McGee, Chairman.

On motion the report was received and the committee discharged, After which it was considered by sections; whereupon the 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5, were adopted and the 6th was amended by substitute, thus: Upon the reconsideration of the resolution relative to the use of the Treatise, be it

Resolved, That for peace and union we hereby discontinue the use of the Treatise.

ON TEMPERANCE.

We believe the use of intoxicating liquors to be the greatest evil to the present age, and that the moderate dram-drinker's influence is equally as hurtful, if not more so, in putting down the cause of Christ, as the influence wielded by the habitual drunkard. It is, indeed a sad and lamentable fact that the illicit making and handling of spirits is a growing evil, and that many of our much beloved boys, the hope of church and state, as well as many of our kindhearted husbands and fathers are falling within its fiendish and deadly grasp. Therefore, we beg every minister and brother and sister who love the cause of Christ, who love the gentle youths of our country—the hope of church and state—to stand firm as a mighty bulwark against the making selling and drinking of ardent spirits, the greatest device the devil has in decoying, ensnaring and destroying precious immortal souls. Preach against, talk against, work against, pray and vote against whiskey, and let us save our precious boys from drunkards graves and our darling girls from drunken husbands. Oh! brethren, sisters, let us rise up in the power and might of the Lord and save our church and state.

Respectfully submitted,

C. J. Blake, Chairman.

On motion the report was adopted and the committee discharged.

ON FINANCE.

We, your committee, beg leave to report that we find the sum of (\$20.95.) twenty and 95-100 dollars in the hands of the Treasurer for minute purposes.

ON SUNDAY SCHOOL

We, your committee, beg leave to report with much

regret, that we find no report from our churches on this important work. But being fully impressed with the value of the Sunday School in the upbuilding of the cause of Christ, therefore, we most urgently insist upon our people to organize and strive to perpetuate Sunday Schools at their respective churches.

Respectfully submitted,

J. M. Pinkerton, Chairman.

On motion, the report was adopted and the committee discharged.

ON DECEASED.

We your committee, find that our Heavenly Father has been pleased in His wisdom to call nine of our much beloved co-laborers in Christ to their eternal home since our last session, to-wit: Bro. J C Cook and sisters Pearlle Woolbright, and Jane Riddle, Macedonia church. Bro. W C Montgomery, and sister Henretta Wedgeworth, Tabernacle church. Sister Eliza Pinkerton, Shiloh church. Sister Laura Hardy, Union church. Sister Polly Odum, Antioch church and sister Mary Coward, Mount Moriah church. We recommend that we pay them a tribute of respect by appending this to our minutes.

Respectfully submitted,

J. E. Strickland Chairman.

On motion, the report was adopted and the committee discharged.

ON RESOLUTIONS.

Whereas our country is being canvassed by Mormon Elders teaching their pernicious doctrine therefore Be it Resolved, That we will discountenance them; that we will not allow them to preach in our church houses, nor school houses, and that we will not take their literature nor give them any encouragement in any way.

Resolved, That this body appoint a committee of five to draft forms of church letters, licenses and certificates of ordination of ministers, etc., to be published perpetually in our minutes, and that the committee report at the next annual session of this body.

Resolved, That we tender our deserved and sincere thanks to Mount Moriah church and vicinity and especially to the ladies, who have so nobly borne the heat and burden of the day, for their kindness and hospitality shown us during this session of our Association.

Respectfully submitted,

T. M. Bailey, Chairman.

On motion, the report adopted and the committee discharged.

On motion, the body taken an intermission of one and a half hours for recreation and refreshments, after which the business was resumed. The moderator appointed as corresponding messengers to meet with Vernon Association, Eld. W. H. McGee and Bros. Thomas Alexander and A. J. Taylor, and that Bro. Thomas Alexander write the corresponding letter. Also appointed committee to draft forms, etc., to-wit: Brethren H A McShan, W G W White, J D Byars, W B Montgomery, G V Clardy and Thomas Alexander.

The work of the session now being ended, on motion the parting hand was taken and the Association adjourned to meet at Antioch church, Fayette county, Ala., Saturday before the 2nd Sunday in October, 1900.

WM. E. HARDIN, Moderator.

THOMAS ALEXANDER, Clerk.

Ordained Ministers and their Post-Offices.

- Elder W R Latham, Koon, Pickens county, Ala.
- „ W H McGee, Koon, Pickens county, Ala.
- „ Woods Springfield. Pleasant Grove, Pickens Co, Ala
- „ W J Coward, Beards, Pickens county, Ala.
- „ John S Hinton, McConnell, Tuscaloosa county, Ala
- „ J E Mathis, Millport, Lamar county, Ala.
- „ J D Byars, Millport, Lamar county, Ala.
- „ S W Williams, Bostic, Pickens county, Ala.
- „ Abner Henderson, Carrollton, Pickens county, Ala.
- „ George W Gilwreath, Covin, Fayette county, Ala.
- „ T K Harrison, Pleasant Grove, Pickens county Ala
- „ J M Pinkerton, Koon, Pickens county, Ala.
- „ C J Blake, Columbus, Lowndes county, Miss.

Licentiates.

- Rev. J E Strickland, Bostic, Pickens county, Ala.
- „ James T Hinton, McConnell, Tuscaloosa county Ala

UNION MEETING PROCEEDINGS.

The Union meeting of the Mount Moriah Freewill Baptist Association met in its Tenth Annual Session at Union church, Pickens county, Ala., on July 15th and 17th, 1899. The introductory sermon was preached by Eld. J. E. Mathis. His text was St. John 14: 3, 6 verses. After religious exercises a recess of one hour was taken for refreshment, after which, the ministers and delegates assembled in the house, and the body was called to order by the former moderator, W. B. Montgomery, prayer by Eld. W. J. Coward. Business transacted in the following order:

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

2nd. Proceed to the election of moderator and clerk, whereupon Bro. W. B. Montgomery was elected moderator and George V. Clardy clerk. (The workman is worthy of his meat.)

3rd. The following committees were appointed:
On Order of Business—Elds. W. Springfield, W. J. Coward, J. E. Mathis, with moderator and clerk.

On Preaching—J. G. Pearson with deacons of Union church.

On Resolutions and Queries—Brethren W. L. Stucky, W. H. Koon, I. Fields, J. W. E. Shelby and Rev. J. E. Strickland.

4th. Committee on preaching report Eld. W. J. Coward to preach Saturday night, Eld. T. K. Harrison at 9 a. m. Sunday, Eld. W. Springfield at 11 a. m. Eld. J. E. Mathis at 3:20 p. m. Respectfully submitted,
J. G. Pearson, Chairman.

On motion report received and committee discharged.

5th. On motion, query deferred to this session—Is there any authority in God's word for compelling church members to attend their church conferences?—was taken up, discussed and the following answer was adopted: The church has no authority to compel her members to attend conference, only through the persuasive influence of the gospel, and covenantal agreement.

6th. On motion Union meeting adjourned until Monday morning 9 o'clock.

Service on Saturday night and Sunday. Eld. W. J. Coward preached Saturday night. Text: Matt. 28:19. Eld. T. K. Harrison preached Sunday at 9 a. m. His text was 1st Cor. 15:1-2, after which Bro. Harrison was set forth to the full functions of the gospel by the laying on of the hands of the following presbytery: Eld. W. Springfield, J. E. Mathis and W. J. Coward. At 11 a. m.

Eld. W. Springfield preached. His text: 2nd Tim. 4:5, after which the Lord's table was spread, of which many participated in the commemoration of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. At 3:30 p. m. Eld. J. E. Mathis preached. His text was Acts 10:34-35.

The sermons were all edifying, and was delivered to a large and attentive concourse of people.

MONDAY MORNING 9 o'clock.

Union meeting met pursuant to adjournment. Body called to order by the moderator, prayer by Eld. W. J. Coward.

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

2nd. Minutes of Saturday read and approved.

3rd. Called for report of committees.

Committee on order of business submitted the following report:

We recommend 1st, that this body authorize the moderator to appoint a committee of three to draft an order of business, exclusively for the Union Meeting, with rules of decorum. Also, that the union meeting be a creature of itself, independent of the Association. And present the same at the next session of this body.

2nd. We recommend that the next session of this body be held at Mount Moriah church, and that it convene on Saturday before the 2nd Sabbath in August 1900. And that Rev. T. K. Harrison preach the introductory sermon, Eld. J. M. Pinkerton, Alternate.

3rd. We recommend that each church urge the faithful attendance of her delegates, and especially her preachers to each session of the union meeting.

W. B. Montgomery, Chairman.

4th. On motion, the report was received and the committee discharged.

5th. On motion, the report was taken up and considered by sections. After due consideration, it was adopted as a whole.

Committee on resolutions and queries submitted the following report:

Query, does the work of God teach that we should live a sanctified life while in this present world?

We recommend 1st that the above query be discussed at this Union Meeting.

We recommend 2nd, that we tender our thanks to Union church, and citizens of the community for their kindness and hospitality shown us during our stay with them.

J. E. Strickland, Chairman.

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

7th. On motion query was taken up and after a lengthy and feeling discussion, the following answer was unanimously adopted, to-wit: The word of God does teach that we should live wholly sanctified in this world.

8th. On motion, Rev. J E Strickland was appointed to preach at the close of this conference.

The moderator appointed the following brethren to draft and present at the next session of this body a constitution and rules of decorum by which to be governed: Elds. W Springfield, J E Mathis and brother G V Clardy.

9th. On motion the Union Meeting adjourned to meet at Mount Moriah, Pickens county, Ala., on Saturday before the 2nd Sunday in August 1900.

Rev. J E Strickland preached. His text — after which a hymn was sung and the parting hand taken.

W. B. MONTGOMERY, Moderator.

G. V. CLARDY, Clerk.

Roll of Delegates.

Mount Moriah church— I J W St. John.

Macedonia church— I Fielts.

Shiloh church— W H Koon, W R Buckhalter.

Tabernacle church— W B Montgomery, J W E Shelby.

Holly Springs church— W L Stucky, G V Clardy J A Thrasher

Antioch church— Not represented.

Mt. Hermon church— J G Pearson.

Union church— T M & J J Bailey, W H Whatley.

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 the 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 new churches, then it shall 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 appoint some one to the chair while he is speaking.

7. Only one person shall speak at the 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 of the Association, nor more than fifteen minutes at a time.

10. No member shall talk or laugh 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.

13. That the appointment of all committees by the moderator be confined to the ministers and delegates composing the Association.

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 distinction of Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, equal in every divine perfection and existing in distinct but harmonious office 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 center of Christian union, the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creed 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 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.

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 that believe in Him can be partakers of the divine benefits,

6: We believe that true faith cannot proceed from the exercise of our natural faculties and powers, or from the force and operation of the free will, since man in consequence of his natural corruption is incapable either 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.—Jas. 1:25. This is to act out saving faith—John 1:9. However none but those who believe or acquiesce in Christ will be saved thereby—Acts 17, 32; Rom. 2, 9; 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 14, 12; Eze. 18, 24; Rev. 2 and 3. 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 the 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 exercising the gifts, rights and privileges invested in them by His word, that its only proper officers are bishops, 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 proper subjects.

Art. 11 We believe 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.

Art. 12. We believe in the resurrection of the dead and the general judgement; that the joys of the righteous and the 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,

CONSTITUTION.

Art. This Association shall be known as the Mount Moriah Freewill Baptist Association of Alabama, 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 counsel 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, etc. 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 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. The Association shall meet annually at such time and place as may be agreed upon by the 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, etc.

STATISTICAL TABLE.

Churches and Counties.	Names of Delegates.	Pastors.	Clerks and their Postoffices.	For Minutes									
				Baptized	Received by Letter	Dismissed by Letter	Received by Session	Restored	Deceased	Excluded	Days Meeting	Members	
Mt. Moriah, Pickens Co.	Wm. E Hardin, Joe E Woods, H A McShan	Woods Springfield	F L Smith, Gore, Ala.		1				1		2	147	\$3.00
Macodonia	Isaah Field, R S Fields, W J McAdams	J E Mathis	J T Hardin, Millport,	7	3			1	3	4	1	97	3.00
Shiloh		J E Mathis	Jas. L Estis, Koon,	9					1		3	61	1.60
Tabernacle, Tuscaloosa	W B Montgomery, J W E Shelby	W H McGee	J W Montgomery M'Connell,						2			82	2.00
Holly Springs, Pickens	G V Clardy, J E Reynolds	J D Byars	G V Clardy, Bostic								4	106	2.35
Antioch, Fayette Co	A J Taylor, Thomas Alexander	D G W Hollis	D Belk, Covin		1				1	2	1	60	1.50
Mt. Hermon, Tuscaloosa	W R Pearson	J E Mathis	W E Hood, Fox		2	9						25	2.00
Union, Pickens Co	J J & T M Bailey J A Pool	Woods Springfield	W J Clayton Pleasant Grove	17	2		10		1	1			2.50
			Amount with Treasurer										3.00
Total				33	4	17	10	1	9	9		578	20.95