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# MINUTES

— OF THE —

Fiftieth Annual Session

— OF THE —

## MOUNT MORIAH

FREEWILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

### HELD WITH

Antioch Church, Fayette County, Alabama,  
October 13, and 15, 1900.

WILLIAM E. HARDIN, - - - MODERATOR.  
THOMAS ALEXANDER, - - - CLERK.

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The next session of this Association will meet with Shiloh Church,  
Pickens county, Alabama, on Saturday before  
the second Sunday in October, 1901.

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Courier Print: Vernon, Ala.



A Mothers voice is still'd  
A Home is sad and lone  
And children hearts are now  
With grief & mourning fill'd

# PROCEEDINGS.

The Fiftieth Annual session of the Mount Moriah Free-will Baptist Association, of Alabama, was held with Antioch church, Fayette county, Alabama, October 13th, 14th and 15th, 1900. The introductory sermon was preached by Elder James D. Byars. His text was Matt. 17:5. After preaching an intermission of an hour and a half was taken for recreation and refreshments. At the appointed time the ministers and messengers repaired to the house, and after services in song and prayer the Association was called to order by William E. Hardin, former moderator; the former clerk officiating until the Association was organized. The business was transacted in the following order:

1. The letters from the different churches were called for, handed in and read, and names of delegates enrolled as per statistical table.

2. Proceeded to elect moderator and clerk, whereupon William E. Hardin was elected moderator and Thos. Alexander clerk.

3. Extended an invitation for the reception of new churches, whereupon a petitionary letter was presented from Philips' Chapel church of North River Freewill Baptist Association, borne by Bros. W. A. Sanford, J. W. Gregg and J. W. Hallman, having delegated power from said church. After an investigation as to the condition of said church, and having had the Rules of Decorum, etc., read to which the delegates pledged adoption, on motion, the church was received and the delegates conducted to seats with us.

4. Called for corresponding messengers from Sister Associations, whereupon Bros. T. A. Guin, I. P. Robertson and Elder T. G. Harrison from Vernon Association were received with brotherly greeting and conducted to seats with us.

5. Invited visiting brethren to seats with us.

6. The following committees were appointed:

On Order of Business—Elders James D. Byars, J. E. Mathis, W. J. Coward, J. E. Strickland, and Bro. W. B. Montgomery with Moderator and clerk.

On Devotional Service—Bros. J. E. Woods, O. B. Hardin, E. P. Rhodes with deacons of Antioch church.

On Temperance—Bros. G. V. Clardy and J. A. Pool.

On Finance—Bros. R. S. Fields and I. J. W. St John.

On Sunday School—Bros. A. J. Taylor and T. M. Bailey.

On Deceased—Bros. J. T. Hardin and J. W. Gregg.

On Resolutions and Queries—Bros. John H. Hannah, W. A. Sanford and J. P. Montgomery.



7. The committee on devotional service reported as follows:—We, your committee, beg leave to report that Elder T. G. Harrison preach Sunday at 9 a. m. Elder J. E. Mathis 11 a. m. Rev. J. E. Strickland 4 p. m. Elder James D. Byars 7:30 p. m.

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

On request of Holly Springs church the Association set Sunday 5 p. m., for the ordination of Rev. J. E. Strickland and he to select the presbytery.

On motion the Association now adjourned until Monday morning at 8 o'clock.

### SERVICES SUNDAY.

Elder T. G. Harrison preached at 9 a. m. His text was Ps. 116:12. Elder J. E. Mathis at 11 a. m., his text was Luke 9:56. Rev. J. E. Strickland at 5 p. m., his text was Isa. 55:7. James D. Byars at 7:30 p. m., his text was Isa. 60:22. Rev. J. E. Strickland was ordained at 5:30 p. m. The presbytery was Elders James D. Byars, J. E. Mathis and D. G. W. Hollis.

### *Monday Morning, October 15.*

The Association met pursuant to adjournment. After singing and prayer the Association was called to order by the Moderator.

1. Roll called and delegates answered to their names.
2. Minute of Saturday was read and approved.
3. Reports of committees called for, and presented as follows:

#### *On Order of Business.*

We, your committee, beg leave to report: 1st. That we proceed after the usual order of business. 2d. That the next annual session of this body be held with Shiloh church, That Elder W. J. Coward be appointed to preach the introductory sermon and Elder Woods Springfield be his alternate. 3d. That Bro. Thos. Alexander be continued as treasurer; that he superintend the printing of the minutes, and be allowed five dollars (\$5) for his services. 4th. That we appoint corresponding messengers to meet with Vernon Freewill Baptist Association to be held with Mt. Pleasant church, Lamar county, Ala., to convene on Saturday before the third Sunday in October 1900. 5. That we call for a report from the committee appointed by the Union Meeting on missionary work.

Respectfully submitted.

JAMES D. BYARS, Chairman.

On motion the report was received and the committee discharged. After which the report was considered by sections when sections 1, 2, 3 & 5 were adopted, and section 4 amended so as to read "Vernon Freewill Baptist Association" and the adopted.

### *On Temperance.*

We believe the use of intoxicating liquors to be the greatest evil to the present age, and that the moderate 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 loves the cause of Christ, who loves 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 decaying, ensnaring and destroying precious immortal souls. Preach 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,

G. V. CLARDY, Chairman.

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

### *On Finance.*

We, your committee, find the sum of twenty-two dollars and fifteen cents (\$22.15) in the hands of the treasurer for minute purposes.

Respectfully submitted,

R. S. FIELDS, Chairman.

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

### *On Sunday School.*

We, your committee, beg leave to report that we find but one Sunday school in our Association, but being impressed with the value of Sunday school work in the upbuilding of the cause of Christ. Therefore, we urge our people, and especially our ministers to organize and strive to perpetuate

Sunday schools at their respective churches.

Respectfully submitted,

T. M. BAILEY, Chairman.

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

### *On Deceased.*

We, your committee, beg leave to report that we have lost by the ruthless hand of death, since our last annual meeting, seventeen of our much beloved co-laborers in Christ, to-wit: Bro. John D. Stokes, Macedonia church; Sister Malinda Logan, Tabernacle church; Bro. J. C. Black and Sisters Eliza Holly, and E. E. Howton, Antioch church; Bros. R. F. Bailey, John Powell, G. B. Parham and Sisters Vessie Carver and Eula Powell, Union church; Bro. J. G. Ledbetter, and Sisters Bertha Ann Clardy, Veria D. Landcaster, Elizabeth Landcaster and Mollie V. Bush, Holly Springs church; Sister Minnie McGee, Mt. Hermon church; Elder Abner Henderson, Mt. Moriah church.

Respectfully submitted,

JAMES T. HARDIN, Chairman.

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

### *Tribute of Respect.*

Now while we meekly bow,  
To the will of Him above;  
Let's pay our last respects,  
To the parted ones we loved.

Oh! may our loss be counted,  
Their now eternal gain;  
And may we strive to meet them,  
Where there's neither loss nor pain.

THE CLERK.

### *On Resolutions and Queries.*

Resolved, That we tender our sincere thanks to Antioch church and vicinity and more especially to the ladies for their kindness and hospitality to us during our session with them.

We offer for discussion to this body the following query, to-wit: "Does any church in this Association have the right to excuse herself from the sacrament of the Lord's supper in the absence of a preacher?"

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN. H. HANNAH, Chairman.



On motion the report was received, adopted and the committee discharged. After a lengthy debate, which was conducted in kindness and brotherly love, on motion the following was rendered in answer: "No church has any such right."

Called for the committee on drafting forms of business, which was appointed by the last annual meeting of this body. On motion the committee was continued.

Appointed corresponding messengers to meet with Vernon Freewill Baptist Association to meet with Mt. Pleasant church, Lamar county, Alabama, on Saturday before the 3d Sunday in October 1900, to-wit: Elders James D. Byars, W. J. Coward, and Bros. J. M. McAdams, A. J. Taylor and B. D. Williams.

Called for report from committee on missionary work. The report being only partial, on motion, the pleasure of the body was the tabling of the report.

By request Bro. Thomas Alexander was given ten minutes to speak on education. Whereupon, he spoke of some of the advantages of the G. R. C. College, located at Henderson, Chester county, Tennessee.

The work of the Association now being ended the sacrament of the Lord's supper was administered, after which the parting hand was taken and the Association adjourned to meet with Shiloh church, Pickens county, Alabama, to convene on Saturday before the second Sunday in October 1901.

WILLIAM E. HARDIN, Moderator.

THOMAS ALEXANDER, Clerk.

### *Ordained Ministers and Their Postoffices.*

Elder W. R. Lathan, Koon, Pickens County, Ala.

" W. H. McGee, " " " "

" W. J. Coward, Beards, " " "

" John S. Hinton, McConnell, Tuscaloosa Co., Ala.

" Woods Springfield, Pleasant Grove, Pickens Co. Ala

" J. E. Mathis, Millport, Lamar County, Ala.

" James D. Byars, Millport, Lamar County, Ala.

" S. W. Williams, Bostic, Pickens County, "

" George W. Gillreath, Covin, Fayette County, Ala.

" T. K. Harriscl, Pleasant Grove, Pickens Co., Ala

" C. J. Blake, Columbus, Lowndes County, Miss.

" J. E. Strickland, Bostic, Pickens County, Ala.

## CONSTITUTION.

Section 1. 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.

## 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 shall appoint 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 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.

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, creeds and opinions will be tried.

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.

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 of thinking or doing anything spiritually good.

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 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.

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 22, 1st Peter 1:10.

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.

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.

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.

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

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.



# UNION MEETING.

## PROCEEDINGS.

The Union meeting of the Mt. Moriah Freewill Baptist Association met in its eleventh annual session at Mt. Moriah church. Pickens county, Alabama, on August 11th, 12th, and 13th 1900. The introductory sermon was preached by Elder J. D. Byars. His text was Genesis 3:9.

After religious service a recess of one hour was taken for refreshments, 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 Elder Woods Springfie'd. Business was then transacted in the following manner.

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

2. Proceeded to elect a Moderator and clerk, whereupon Bro. W. B. Montgomery was elected moderator and George V. Clardy clerk.

3. The following committees were appointed:

On Order of Business—Elders J. D. Byars, Woods Springfield, W. J. Coward, Bro. Thomas Alexander with the Moderator and clerk.

On Preaching—Bro. E. G. Brooks with deacons of Mt. Moriah church.

On Resolutions and Queries—Brethren G. V. Clardy, E. P. Rhodes and Rev. C. J. Blake.

4. On motion the committee on resolutions and queries was made a standing committee until the next session of this body.

5. Called for report of committee that was appointed at the last Union Meeting to draft a constitution and rules of decorum, etc., for the government of the Union Meeting. Said committee not being ready to report, on motion the committee was continued until the next meeting of this body and Bro. Thomas Alexander was added to said committee.

6. Committee appointed on preaching submitted the following report: Elder C. J. Blake to preach at 9 a m Sunday; Elder J. E. Mathis at 11 a m Sunday; Elder Woods Springfield at 6 p m Sunday, and Elder J. D. Byars at close of the Union Meeting Monday.

7. On motion Union Meeting adjourned until Monday morning at 8 o'clock.

### *Services Sunday.*

At 9 a. m. Elder C. J. Blake preached, his text was 2d Kings 50:8. At 11 a. m. Elder J. E. Mathis preached, his text was Hosea 13:14. At 5 p. m. Elder Woods Springfield preached, his text was Luke 2:7. The sermons were all edifying and were delivered to a large and attentive concourse of people.

### *Monday Morning, 8 O'clock.*

The Union Meeting met pursuant to adjournment. The body was called to order by the Moderator and prayer was offered by Elder J. D. Byars.

1. Roll called and delegates answered to their names.
2. Minute of Saturday read and approved.
3. Called for reports of committees:

Committee on order of business submitted the following report: Recommend 1st. That we reduce our Union Meeting to a minister's and deacon's meeting, and to convene on each fifth Sunday, and Saturday before, during the year. And that the first session be held with Tabernacle church in September next and to continue for an indefinite length of time at the option of the body.

2d. That we put an evangelist in the field for part or all of the ensuing Associational year, and that the Moderator of this body appoint a committee, composed of one member from each church, whose duty it shall be to obtain from his church means to aid in the support of said evangelist, and report the same to the next Association.

Respectfully submitted,

J. D. BYARS, Chairman.

On motion the report was received and the committee discharged. On motion the report was taken up and considered by sections. After due consideration section 1 was tabled and section 2 was adopted.

4. Committee on resolutions and queries submitted the following report: Resolved, that the following queries be discussed at the next Union Meeting: "What is Usury?" to be opened by Elder Woods Springfield. 2d. "Is Morality Any Part of the Salvation of the Soul?" to be opened by Bro. J. N. Stuckey.

Resolved, That we tender our thanks to Mt. Moriah church and citizens of the community for the kind hospitality shown us during our stay with them.

Respectfully submitted,

C. J. BLAKE, Chairman.

On motion report of committee was received and was con-



sidered by sections. After due consideration the report was adopted as a whole.

5. On motion, it is agreed that the next session of the Union Meeting be held with Macedonia church, Lamar Co., Alabama, and that it convene on Saturday before the first Sunday in September 1901; and that Elder Woods Springfield preach the introductory sermon, Elder C. J. Blake, alternate.

6. The Moderator appointed the following committee to get up means to aid in the evangelical work:

Mt. Moriah, W. E. Hardin.	Tabernacle, W. B. Montgomery
Macedonia, R. S. Fields.	Holly Springs, G. V. Clardy.
Shiloh, E. G. Brooks.	Antioch, Thomas Alexander.
Mt. Hermon, J. G. Pierson.	Union, R. L. Stapp.

After close of the business of the Union Meeting Elder J. D. Byars preached, his text was Acts 10:1-2. After this a hymn was sung and the parting hand taken.

W. B. MONTGOMERY, Moderator.

G. V. CLARDY, Clerk.

### *Roll of Delegates.*

Mt. Moriah,—F. L. Smith, T. W. James, W. E. Harden.

Macedonia,—I. Fields, W. J. McAdams, J. T. Harden.

Shiloh,—E. G. Brooks, W. H. Koon, W. R. Burkhalter.

Tabernacle,—W. B. Montgomery, J. R. Logan, J. W. Montgomery.

Holly Springs,—E. P. Rhodes, G. V. Clardy, D. S. Harless.

Antioch,—A. J. Taylor, J. Williams, Thomas Alexander.

Mt. Hermon,—Not represented.

Union,—R. L. Stapp, W. H. Whatley, Thomas Springfield.

T. G. Springfield III - B-DE.M  
 G. A. Coward 1 1  
 R. E. Hardin H H 11 7 Dec  
 B. P. Ringea 11 Luna 2  
 J. J. James 1  
 H. L. Smith 1  
 L. A. Burgess H H 1 4 Dec  
 J. B. M. M. M. B Dec  
 J. B. Smith 11 R. E. H. 2 -  
 J. A. Dore 1

30  
 36  
 1000  
 270  
 13.50  
 1800  
 3400

1312  
 11  
 132  
 134  
 1452  
 363  
 18.15



*Statistical Table of Mt. Moriah Freewill Baptist Association for 1900.*

CHURCHES & COUNTIES.	NAMES OF DELEGATES.	PASTORS,	CLERKS AND POSTOFFICES.	Baptized.	Received by Letter.	Dismissed by Letter.	Rec'd by Secession.	Restored.	Deceased.	Excluded.	Days Meeting.	Members.	For Minutes.
Mt. Moriah, Pickens Co.	W E Harden, J E Woods, I J W St John	W. Springfield	W E Harden, McShann, Ala	5	1	5			1	1		147	\$2 50
Macedonia, "	R S Fields, O B & J T Harden.	J. D. Byars ...	J T Harden, Millport, "	18	1		1	2	1		1	128	3.00
Shiloh, "	J H Hannah, Rufus Herring .....	J. E. Mathis ..	J H Hannah, Koon, "	8		6				1	3	67	2.25
Tabernacle, Tuscaloosa Co.	J R Logan, W B & J P Montgomery	W. Springfield	T J Cunningham, McConnell "			2		1	1	1		59	2.00
Holly Springs, Pickens Co.	G V Clardy, E P Rhodes .....	.....	G V Clardy, Bostic "						5		4	103	2.50
Antioch, Fayette Co.	T Alexander, A J Taylor, F Howton	J. A. Brown ..	R D Belk, Covin, "			1			3	2	2	56	1.75
Mt. Hermon, Tuscaloosa Co.	Not represented. Received informal	report by Bro.	J G Pearson.)						1			15	75
Union, Pickens Co.	T M Riley, J A Pool .....	W. Springfield	W J Clayton Pleasant Grove, "						5	1		105	2.50
Phillips' Ch'l Tuscaloosa co	J W Gregg, W A Sanford, J W Hallman	W. J. Harden	J C Phillips Moore's Bridge, "									46	1.00
			Amount With Treasurer										3.90
			Total .....	31	2	14	1	3	17	6		726	22.15