

MINUTES

—OF THE—

FIFTY-SECOND ANNUAL SESSION

—OF THE—

MOUNT MORIAH

FREEWILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

HELD WITH

Tabernacle Church, Tuscaloosa Co., Ala.

October 11, 12 and 13, 1902.

1902

WILLIAM E. HARDIN,

SECRETARY.

THOMAS ALEXANDER, CLERK.

The next session of this Association will meet with Union Church, Pickens county, Alabama, on Saturday before the 29 Sunday in October 1903.

Copy to Print: Vernon, Ala.

PROCEEDINGS:

The Fifty Second annual session of the Mount Moriah Freewill Baptist Association of Alabama was held with Tabernacle church, Tuscaloosa county, Alabama, October 11th, 12th, and 13th, A. D. 1902. The introductory sermon was preached by Elder James D. Byars. His subject was, "The Way Back to God." After devotional service an intermission of one hour was taken for recreation and refreshments. At the appointed time the ministers and messengers repaired to the house, and after service in song and prayer the association was called to order by William E. Hardin, former moderator; former clerk officiating until organized.

The business was transacted in the following order:

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

2. Proceeded to elect moderator and clerk. Whereupon William E. Hardin was elected moderator and Thomas Alexander clerk.

3. Extended an invitation for the reception of new churches. Whereupon a letter from Hattie's Chapel church, asking admission into the association, was presented, and, on motion, was received and the messengers extended the right-hand of fellowship and brotherly love, and conducted to seats with us.

4. Called for corresponding messengers from sister associations. Received none.

5. Invited visiting brethren to seats with us.

6. The following committees were appointed:

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

On Devotional Service—Bros. Joe E. Woods, J. A. St. John, J. A. Poole, and deacons of Tabernacle church.

On Temperance—Bros. E. G. Brooks and T. M. Bailey.

On Finance—Bros. Jesse M. Fields and J. P. Montgomery.

On Sunday School—Bros. John T. Williams and W. A. Sanford.

On Deceased—Bros. W. J. Clayton and James A. Hickman.

On Resolutions and Queries—Elder John S. Hinton and Bros. J. M. Stokes and L. G. Weaver.

On motion the report of the committee on programming

was received and the committee discharged. After which, on motion, it was adopted and ordered printed in the minutes.

PROGRAMME.

Saturday Morning Before 2d Sunday, October 1903.

10:30—Song service and prayer; Elders Woods Springfield and James D. Byars.

11:00—Introductory; W. R. Latham.

AFTERNOON.

1:30—Association called; song service and prayer; delegates enrolled; letters from churches read.

2:00—Election of moderator and clerk.

2:30—Extend an invitation for the reception of new churches; call for corresponding messengers from sister associations; invite visiting brethren to seats with us.

3:00—Appoint committees and messengers.

3:30—Miscellaneous business—Adjourn.

MONDAY MORNING.

8:30—Association called; song service and prayer; scripture reading; roll call; reading minutes; reading Articles of Faith.

9:00—Call for report of committees.

11:30—Call for reference; new business.

AFTERNOON.

1:30—Association called; song service and prayer.

"The Value of Evangelical Work to the Association," Elder Woods Springfield.

2:00—Unfinished business; discussion.

Adjourn.

On motion the moderator appointed Elder Woods Springfield and Bros. Joe E. Woods and Thomas Alexander as corresponding messengers to the Vernon Free-will Baptist Association to meet with Mount Willing church, Fayette county, Alabama, on Saturday before the Third Sunday in October, 1903, and Bro. Thomas Alexander to write the corresponding letter.

On Devotion:

We, your committee, beg leave to report that Elder W. R. Latham preach Sunday at 9 a m; Elder Woods Springfield at 11 a m; Elder W. J. Coward at 7:30 p m.

JOE E. WOODS, Chairman.

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

On motion, the association adjourned until Monday morning 8 o'clock.

SERVICES SUNDAY.

Elder W. R. Latham preached at 9 a m; text: St. John 9:4-5, subject, "Duty and Works." Elder Woods Springfield at 11 a m; text: Isa. 35, subject, "The Triumphant Reign of the Church." Elder W. J. Coward at 7:30 p m; text: Rom. 11:22. All the sermons were delivered to a large concourse of orderly and attentive people. The midday service was commemorated by the taking of the Lord's Supper. All Christians of orthodox churches, who were in good standing in their respective churches were invited to participate with no restriction save that of the scripture. "But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread and drink of that cup, for he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body."

Monday Morning, 8 O'clock.

The association met pursuant to adjournment. Moderator read 10th Matthew, followed in service by song and prayer; and the business was then conducted in the following order:

1. Roll was called and messengers answered to their names.

2. Minutes of Saturday were read and approved. The Articles of Faith were read.

3. Called for report of committees:

Order of Business.

We, your committee, beg leave to report: 1st. That we adopt and have printed in our minutes perpetually the programme written by Bro. Thomas Alexander.

2d. That the next annual session of this body be held with Union church, Pickens county, Alabama, and convene on Saturday before the second Sunday in October 1903. That Elder W. R. Latham preach the introductory sermon, and Elder W. J. Coward be his alternate.

3d. That Bro. Thomas Alexander be continued treasurer; that he superintend the printing of the minutes and be allowed five dollars for his services.

4th. That this body elect and put out an evangelist to devote as much of his time to the work as the means and circumstances will admit. That they pay him one dollar and fifty cents per day for actual service rendered and expenses.

5th. That we continue the investigating committee, and that it look after and investigate the character of ministers and the condition of the churches of this association,

and take an oversight of their usefulness. That it make a report to this body at its next annual sitting with such suggestions, reproofs, or commendations as it may think fit and proper, and that each minister make a report of his entire work for the associational year to the chairman of this committee on the first day of the next annual sitting.

Respectfully submitted,

JAMES D. BYARS, Chairman.

On motion the report was received and the committee discharged. Whereupon, on motion, it was considered by sections and adopted entire.

Called for report of investigating committee which was appointed at the last annual session of this body.

Investigation.

We, your committee on investigation, be leave to report that Holly Springs church, perhaps in its majority, believe in the doctrine taught by Mr. McCaskill. We also find that Rev. Silas W. Williams is claimed not to be in the church, and he is not preaching. As to Elder W. H. McGee we beg the body to give us a few hours further time.

Respectfully submitted,

JOE E. WOODS, Chairman.

On motion, the report was received, and after being discussed, on motion, the association took an intermission of an hour for recreation and refreshments. In due time business was resumed and the investigating committee made a supplemental report as follows:

We, your committee, beg leave to report that we learn through the delegates from Holly Springs church, and from other sources, that said church, perhaps in its majority, has accepted and does believe the doctrine of sanctification as taught by one Mr. McCaskill, and that they believe in the second instantaneous work of grace; and as we believe this to be a departure from our Articles of Faith, hence, we hereby suggest that we withdraw fellowship from them; but that we consider the position of those of said church who have not thus departed, if they shall send messengers and letter to meet with us at our next annual session. We upon further investigation also find that Elder W. H. McGee is living in adultery, and we hereby prefer a charge against him for the same.

Respectfully submitted,

JOE E. WOODS, Chairman.

On motion, the original and supplemental reports were received and adopted. On motion, the investigating committee was empowered to try Elder W. H. McGee on face of the charge brought against him by said committee, and if found guilty to at once demand his church letter and credentials.

Temperance.

We, your committee, beg leave to report that the suppression of the liquor traffic is the greatest question now before the American people, and that the only successful method of suppressing this evil is by means of an organized effort. Therefore, let us organize temperance societies in all our churches and co-operate with each other in putting down this demon of both soul and body. Let us preach and pray and use our influence in every way for total abstinence throughout our entire membership.

Respectfully submitted,

E. G. BROOKS, Chairman.

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

Finance.

We, your committee, beg leave to report that we find in the hands of the treasurer the sum of twenty-one dollars and twenty cents (\$21.20) for minute purposes.

Respectfully submitted,

JESSE M. FIELDS, Chairman.

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

Sunday School.

We, your committee, beg leave to report that we very much regret the little interest that is being taken in Sunday schools among our people, and believing as we do that the earliest impressions are the most durable; therefore, we would earnestly urge our people to the necessity of Sunday school work.

Respectfully submitted,

WM. A. SANFORD, Chairman.

DECEASED.

We, your committee, beg leave to report, though with the deepest regret, that six of our devoted and much beloved sisters have fallen to sleep in Jesus since our last annual meeting, to-wit: Sister Anne Woolbright, Macedonia church; Sister Mary Conner, Shiloh church; Sister Anne Pierce, Sister Savannah Underwood and Plitha Hatcher, Union church; Sister Amanda Holloway, Tabernacle church.

These have gently crossed the river,
They have lain their armor by;
They're now resting in the city,
Far beyond the bright blue sky.
Oh! then, let us live uprightly,
In this probationary state;

That we all may have admittance,
Through the open pearly gate.
Respectfully submitted,

W. J. CLAYTON, Chairman.

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

Resolutions and Queries.

Resolved, 1st. That we tender our sincere thanks to Tabernacle church and vicinity, and more especially to the ladies who have so nobly borne the burdens of the day, for the kindness and hospitality shown us during our stay with them.

2d. We offer to this body for discussion at its next annual session the following queries: 1st. Is faith a direct and absolute gift from God? 2d. In our churches what course should be pursued with a member who joins another denomination without first obtaining a letter of dismission?

JOHN S. HINTON, Chairman.

On motion, the report was received and the committee discharged. After which, on motion, the resolution of thanks and first query were adopted, and the second query tabled.

The business of the association now being concluded, on motion, the parting hand was taken, as is the custom, and the association adjourned to meet in its next annual session with Union church, Pickens county, Alabama, on Saturday before the second Sunday in October 1903.

WILLIAM E. HARDIN.

Moderator.

THOMAS ALEXANDER,
Clerk,

Ordained Ministers and Their Postoffices.

- Eld. W. R. Latham, Koon, Pickens County, Ala.
- " W. H. McGee, " " "
- " W. J. Coward, McShan, " " "
- " John S. Hinton, McConnell, Tuscaloosa Co., Ala.
- " Woods Springfield, Delmaville, Pickens Co, "
- " J. E. Mathis, Millport, Lamar County, Ala.
- " James D. Byars, " " "
- " Silas W. Williams, Bostic, Pickens Co. "
- " C. J. Blake, Columbus, Lowndes County, Miss.
- " J. E. Strickland, Bostic, Pickens County, Ala.
- " W. J. Harbin, Reuben, Tuscaloosa " "
- " James B. Davis, West Point, Clay County, Miss.

Licentiates.

Rev. W. B. Montgomery, McConnell, Tuscaloosa Co., Ala.

constitution.

Article 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 th delegates.

2. This body shall be considered an advisory council, but having no authority over the affairs of other churches; unless they depart from the Articles of Faith of this Association. In case any church departs from the Articles of Faith and supports doctrines of heresy, or allows any minister of her body to teach doctrines not in keeping with our Articles of Faith, the same shall be dealt with by this Association as it may deem proper and right, according to the teachings of the bible.

3. Each church in this Association shall be considered an advisory body, and shall control its own internal affairs in matters of discipline, &c., though the church may in extreme cases call in aid from sister churches, but the Association shall rule in all matters of doctrine and general interest.

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 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 unanims.

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, provided, 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 offices 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, truth for its matter and salvation for its end; 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 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 who 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 for 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; Exe. 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 obli-

gation, 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 Mount Moriah Freewill Baptist Association met at its thirteenth annual session with Phillips' Chapel church, Tuscaloosa county, Ala., on Saturday before the fourth Sunday in August, 1902. The introductory sermon was preached by Elder W. J. Harbin. Text, St. John 15:9. After preaching an intermission of an hour and a half was taken for recreation and refreshments. In due time the ministers and messengers assembled in the house and the body was called to order by Rev. W. B. Montgomery, former moderator; Rev. J. M. Pinkerton acting as clerk until the body was fully organized. Prayer was offered by Elder John S. Hinton, and the business was then transacted in the following order:

1. Letters from the various churches were called for, handed in and read, and the contents noted.
2. Proceeded to elect moderator and clerk; whereupon Rev. W. B. Montgomery was elected moderator, and Bro. J. R. Logan clerk.
3. The following committees were appointed:
On Order of Business—Elders W. J. Harbin, John S. Hinton, and Bros. W. H. Daniel, James P. Montgomery with moderator and clerk.

On Preaching—Bro. B. D. Williams and deacons of Phillips' Chapel church.

On Resolutions and Queries—Elder J. M. Pinkerton and Bros. P. J. Frazier, Joe Hollman and Jeff Sanford.

On Preaching: We, your committee, beg leave to report that Rev. W. B. Montgomery preached Sunday at 9 a. m., Elder W. J. Harbin at 11 a. m., and Elder John S. Hinton at night. Respectfully submitted,

B. D. WILLIAMS, Chairman.

On motion, the union meeting adjourned until Monday morning at 9 o'clock.

Services Sunday.

Rev. W. B. Montgomery preached at 9 a. m., his text was Gal. 5:1-2. Elder W. J. Harbin at 11 a. m., his text was Rom. 8:14. Elder John S. Hinton at night, his text was 1st Cor. 1:21-22. All the sermons were delivered with christian zeal and enthusiasm to a large gathering of people, who behaved well and listened attentively.

Monday Morning, 9 O'clock.

The union meeting met pursuant to adjournment. The body was called to order by the moderator. Prayer was offered by Elder John S. Hinton, and business resumed in the following order:

1. Roll call and delegates answered to their names.
2. Called for report of committees:

Order of Business—We submit the following report: Recommend 1st. That we proceed after the usual order of business. 2d. The next annual session of this body be held with Shiloh church, Pickens county, Ala., to convene on Saturday before the third Sunday in Aug. 1903. That the introductory sermon be preached by Elder W. J. Harbin and Elder John S. Hinton alternate. 3d. That the union meeting be held at an earlier date.

Respectfully submitted, W. J. Harbin, Chairman.

On motion, the report was received and the committee discharged. After which, on motion, it was taken up and considered by sections and then adopted as a whole.

Resolutions and Queries—Resolved that we, the ministers and messengers composing the union meeting, tender our heartfelt thanks to the members of Phillips' Chapel church and citizens of the community for their kindness and hospitality shown us during our stay with them. May they ever be a green spot in our memory; may God's richest blessings ever rest upon them; may they ever be a prosperous people while on earth, and after death be at rest in eternity. We submit the following

query: "Why am I a Free-Will Baptist?" Debate opened by Elder John S. Hunter. Respectfully submitted.

J. M. Pinkerton, Chairman.

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

The business of the union meeting being ended there was a hymn sung and the parting hand was taken and the union meeting adjourned to meet in its next annual session with Shiloh church, Pickens county, Alabama, on Saturday before the third Sunday in August 1903.

W. B. MONTGOMERY,

J. R. LOGAN,

Clerk.

Mod-erator.

Roll of Delegates.

Mount Moriah; _____

Macedonia; _____

Shiloh; W. H. Koon, W. R. Burkhalter, J. R. Herndon

Taboracle; J. F. Frazier, J. R. Logan, J. P. Montgomery

Holly Springs; _____

Antioch; B. D. Williams, John T. Williams.

Union; W. H. Daniel, R. L. Stapp, W. H. Wiley

Phillips' Chapel; W. A. and Jeff Sanford, J. Halman.

Statistical Table of Mount Moriah Freewill Baptist Association, Feb. 1902.

CHURCHES & COUNTIES	NAME OF DELEGATES.	PASTORS.	CLERKS AND POST OFFICES.	Baptized.	Received by Letter.	Dismissed by Letter.	Recd. by Commission.	Reported.	Dismissed.	Excluded.	Days of Meeting.	Members.	For Minutes.	
Mr. Moriah, Pickens Co.	J. E. Woods, W. E. Hardin.	W. Springfield	W. E. Hardin, McShan, A. H.	5							3	10	2.00	
Macounia, "	I. & J. McFields, J. M. Stokes.	J. D. Byars.	J. S. Stokes, Millport.	10							4	155	2.50	
Shiloh, "	E. C. Brooks, J. A. Hickman.	"	J. H. Pinkerton, Koon.	2	1					1	3	62	3.50	
Tabernacle, Tusculum	J. P. Montgomery, P. J. Farrier, J. G. Pearson.	"	J. T. Cunningham, Humphrey.	1	1	6				1	1	67	3.50	
Antioch, Fayette	Thos. Alexander, T. V. Williams.	J. D. Byars	Thos. Alexander, Kennedy.	6			1				2	64	2.00	
Onion, Pickens	T. M. Bailey, J. A. Poole, W. J. Clayton.	W. Springfield	E. Z. Mayfield, Mayfield.						3	2	3	95	3.50	
Phillips' Ch. Tusculum	H. A. Fenner, W. J. Hallman, J. G. Weaver.	W. J. Harbin.	L. G. Weaver, Henton.	11	2		1	5			4	91	1.50	
Hattie's Chapel, Pickens	L. F. Eldmore, J. A. McJohn.	W. Springfield	L. F. Eldmore, Ethelville.									10	1.00	
			Amount with Clerk.										8	10
			Holly Springs church										75	
				89	6	12	2	5	6	9		072	1.20	