

L. B. Koon

MINUTES

—OF THE—

FIFTY-THIRD ANNUAL SESSION

—OF THE—

MISSISSIPPI

FREEWILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

HELD WITH

Union Church, Pickens county, Alabama;

October 10, 11 and 12, 1903.

WILLIAM E. HARDIN, MODERATOR.

N. A. MCGEE, CLERK.

The next session of this Association will be held with Hattie's Chapel Church, Pickens county, Alabama, on Saturday before the 2d Sunday in Oct. 1904.

COURIER PRINT; VERNON, ALA.

PROCEEDINGS.

The fifty-third annual session of the Mt. Moriah Freewill Baptist Association of Alabama was held with Union church, Pickens county, Alabama, October 10, 11 and 12, 1903. The Introductory Sermon was preached by Elder W. R. Latham. His text was the 18th verse of the 17th chapter of St. John.

After devotional service an intermission of one hour and a half was taken for recreation and refreshments.

At the appointed time the ministers and messengers repaired to the house, and after prayer and song service, the association was called to order by W. E. Hardin, former Moderator. (The former Clerk being absent, N. A. McGee was elected pro tem).

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 the Moderator and Clerk, whereupon W. E. Hardin was elected Moderator and N. A. McGee Clerk.

3. Extended an invitation for the reception of new churches, whereupon a letter from Mt. Zion church, Tuscaloosa county, asking admission into the association, was presented, and, on motion, was received, and the messengers were 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 Woods Springfield, Y. D. Byars, W. R. Latham and W. B. Montgomery and Brother J. E. Woods, with the Moderator and Clerk.

On Devotional Service—Brothers J. A. Pridmore, W. J. McAdams and J. A. Hickman, with the deacons of Union church.

On Temperance—Elder W. B. Montgomery, Brothers J. M. Fields and J. W. Wallis.

On Finance—Brothers W. B. Curry and Will Koons.
On Sunday Schools—Elder J. M. Pinkerton, Brothers A. J. Taylor and J. G. Pearson.

On Deceased Members—Elder J. E. Mathis, Brothers J. A. St Johns and J. P. Montgomery.

On Resolutions and Queries—Brothers T. C. Harless, T. A. Springfield, J. H. Pinkerton, A. J. Adkins and P. J. Frazier.

Corresponding Delegates to the Vernon Association—Elders Woods Springfield, J. D. Byars and Brother J. E. Woods.

Miscellaneous business.

On motion the association adjourned to meet Monday morning at 8 o'clock.

SUNDAY SERVICES.

At 9 a. m. J. E. Mathis preached. Subject: "Agony in the Garden." Text, St. John 17:4.

At 11 a. m. J. D. Byars preached. Subject: "Get You Ready." Joshua 1:11.

Elder J. M. Pinkerton preached at night. His text was Titus 2:11.

All the sermons were delivered to an orderly and quiet concourse of 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 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 SESSION.

The association met pursuant to adjournment. After prayer and song service 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.

COMMITTEE ON DOCUMENTS.

We, your Committee on Documents and Order of Business, beg leave to report: (1.) We recommend the usual order of business with proper arrangements made. (2.) We recommend that the next session of this association be held with Hattie's Chapel Church, Pickens county, Alabama, commencing on the Saturday before the second Sabbath in October, 1904, and that Elder J. E. Mathis preach the Introductory Sermon, and that Elder J. D. Byars be his alternate. (3.) We recommend that N. A. McGee be elected Treasurer, and that he superintend the printing of the minutes, and that he be allowed \$5 for his service; that he have the minutes sent to each church as per amount paid for the same. Respectfully submitted.

WOODS SPRINGFIELD, Chairman.

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

On motion, the Clerk was ordered to draw a warrant on our former Clerk for \$25.70 in favor of Elder Woods Springfield.

COMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATION.

We, your Committee on Investigation, beg leave to report that we have had reports from Elders in good standing, and we recommend them to the Christian world. We also find that the churches of this association are sound in the faith. We find that Rev. C. J. Blake is out of order and request that his name be dropped from our roll until we have time to investigate his case. We are reliably informed that Rev. J. E. Strickland has joined the Missionary Baptist church. We charge him with treating this association with contempt and ask that his name be dropped from our rolls. We also ask that the name of Rev. S. W. Williams be dropped from our roll, and, as Rev. W. H. McGee has surrendered his letter and credentials to this committee, we ask that his name be dropped from our roll. Respectfully submitted,

WOODS SPRINGFIELD, Chairman.

On motion, the report was received and the committee discharged. After due consideration the report was adopted as a whole.

COMMITTEE ON TEMPERANCE.

We, your Committee on Temperance, beg leave to report:

That suppression of the liquor traffic is the greatest question 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,

W. B. MONTGOMERY, Chairman.

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

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE.

We, your Committee on Finance, beg leave to report that we find in the treasury the sum of \$18.35 collected, and amount in treasury, \$2.10. Total, \$20.45.

COMMITTEE ON SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

We, your committee, beg leave to report that we very much regret that we find but little interest taken in Sunday schools among our people, and we urge upon our people to do everything in their power to build up a Sunday school in every church, believing that the early impressions on our children are the most lasting. Respectfully submitted,

J. M. PINKERTON, Chairman.

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

COMMITTEE ON DECEASED MEMBERS.

We, your committee, beg leave to report, though with the deepest regret, that ten of our devoted members have fallen to sleep in Jesus since our last annual meeting, to-wit: From Mt. Moriah, Brother F. L. Smith; from Antioch, Sisters R. J. Richards, L. E. Richards and E. A. Taylor; from Macedonia, Brothers W. B. Adkins and Robert Biddle; from Phillips Chapel, Brother James Sanford; from Shiloh, Sister Mary Platt; from Union, Brother William Curry and Sister Martha Pool.

These have gently crossed the river,

They have laid 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. CLATON, Chairman.

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

COMMITTEE ON RESOLUTIONS AND QUERIES.

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

T. C. HARLESS, Chairman.

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

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON DEACONS' AND MINISTERS' UNION MEETING.

We recommend that the next Union meeting be held with Antioch church, to convene on Saturday before the second Sunday in August, 1904, and that Elder J. M. Pinkerton preach the Introductory Sermon.

On motion, the report was adopted by a majority of the delegates present at the Union meeting.

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 Hattie's Chapel church, Pickens county, Alabama, on Saturday before the second Sunday in October, 1904.

WILLIAM E. HARDIN, Moderator.

N. A. M'GEE, Clerk.

ORDAINED MINISTERS AND THEIR POSTOFFICES

Elder W. R. Latham	Koon, Pickens county, Ala.
W. J. Coward	McShan, Pickens county, Ala.
John S. Hinton	May, Tuscaloosa county, Ala.
Woods Springfield	Delmarville, Pickens county, Ala.
James D. Byars	Millport, Lamar county, Ala.
J. E. Mathis	Millport, Lamar county, Ala.
W. J. Hardin	Reubin, Tuscaloosa county, Ala.
James B. Davis	Westpoint, Clay county, Miss.
J. M. Pinkerton	Reubin, Tuscaloosa county, Ala.
W. B. Montgomery	May, Tuscaloosa county, Ala.
J. W. Cook	Millport, Lamar county, Ala.

6 CONSTITUTION.

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

Art. 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.

Art. 3. Each church in this association shall be considered an advisory body, and shall control its own internal affairs in matters of discipline, etc., 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.

Art. 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.

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

Art. 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.

Art. 7. Churches wishing to become members of this association must adopt its articles of faith and conform to its usages.

Art. 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.

7 RULES OF DECORUM.

Rule 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.

Rule 2. The association shall be opened and closed with singing and prayer.

Rule 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.

Rule 4. The names of the delegates from the different churches shall be enrolled and called as often as necessary during the session.

Rule 5. A majority of delegates present shall rule in all cases, except in the reception of new churches, then it shall be unanimous.

Rule 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.

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

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

Rule 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.

Rule 10. No member shall talk or laugh during the time the debates are going on.

Rule 11. No member shall absent himself from the association without leave of the Moderator.

Rule 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.

Rule 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.

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, 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.

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 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 the 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 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.

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; Exe. 33:13 and 28; 1st Tim. 4:1; Heb. 3:5; 1st Cor. 10:12 and 22; 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 judgment; 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.

UNION MEETING PROCEEDINGS.

The Union Meeting of the Mt. Moriah Freewill Baptist Association met in its fourteenth annual session with Shiloh church, Pickens county, Alabama, on Saturday before the third Sunday in August, 1903. The Introductory Sermon was preached by Elder W. J. Harbin. Text: St. John 15:17. 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 Elder W. B. Montgomery, former Moderator, Brother J. L. A. Boswell acting as Clerk until the body was fully organized. Prayer was offered by Elder Woods Springfield, and the business was then transacted in the following order:

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

2. Proceeded to elect a Moderator and Clerk, whereupon Elder W. B. Montgomery was elected Moderator, and Brother J. A. Boswell, Clerk.

3. Extended an invitation for reception of new churches, whereupon a letter from Mt. Zion church, asking admission into the Union meeting was presented, and on motion, was received, and the Moderator extended the right hand of fellowship and brotherly love, and conducted the messengers to seats with us.

4. Invited visiting brethren to seats with us.

5. The following committees were appointed:

On Order of Business—Elders Woods Springfield, J. E. Mathis, N. R. Latham and J. D. Byars, with the Moderator and Clerk.

On Devotional Service—Brother B. D. Williams, with the deacons of Shiloh Church.

On Resolutions and Queries—Brothers J. W. Wallis, J. T. Cunningham and W. A. Sanford.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON DEVOTIONAL SERVICES.

We, your committee, beg leave to report that Elder J. M. Pinkerton will preach Saturday at 5 p. m.; Elder W. J. Harbin preach Sunday at 9 a. m.; Elder Woods Springfield, at 11 a. m.; Elder J. E. Mathis, at 6 p. m.; Elder J. D. Byars, Monday, at 11 a. m.

B. D. WILLIAMS, Chairman.

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

Query No. 1, "Why I am a Freewill Baptist?" was taken up and discussed. Moved that the Moderator appoint a committee to draft an answer. The committee was composed of Elders W. B. Latham, J. E. Mathis and J. D. Byars.

On motion, the Union meeting adjourned until Monday morning at 8 o'clock.

Elder J. M. Pinkerton preached at 5 p. m. on Saturday. Text: Romans 1:15.

SUNDAY SERVICES.

Elder W. J. Harbin preached at 9 a. m. Text: John 14:6. Elder Woods Springfield preached at 11 a. m. Text: Hebrews 2:6-10. Elder J. E. Mathis preached at 6 p. m. Text: Titus 2:1. 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.

MONDAY—MORNING SESSION.

The Union meeting met pursuant to adjournment. The body was called to order by the Moderator. Prayer was offered by Elder W. J. Harbin, and business was resumed in the following order:

1. Roll call and delegates answered to their names.

2. Called for report of committees:

COMMITTEE ON ORDER OF BUSINESS.

We submit the following report: Recommend: (1.) That we proceed after the usual order of business. (2.) That we reduce the Union meeting to a Ministers' and Deacons' Meeting, with one additional delegate from the various churches, and the meetings be held every fifth Sunday and Saturday before, and to be continued at the discretion of the body. (3.) That the first session of the meeting be held with the Antioch church, Fayette county, Alabama, to convene on Saturday before the fifth Sunday in November. That Elder W. B. Montgomery preach the Introductory Sermon, and Elder J. M. Pinkerton alternate.

WOODS SPRINGFIELD, 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.

COMMITTEE ON RESOLUTIONS AND QUERIES.

Resolved, That the ministers and messengers composing the Union Meeting, tender our heartfelt thanks to the good people of Shiloh Church for the kindness shown us during our stay with them, and especially the good sisters who have borne the heat and burden of the day.

We submit the following queries:

What is the common salvation spoken of by Juda?
Opened by Elder W. B. Montgomery.

In what manner should the gospel be delivered? Opened by Elder J. S. Hinton.

What power is there in prayer and how should we pray?
J. W. WALLIS, Chairman.

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

We, your committee to draft an answer to query No. 1, "Why I am a Freewill Baptist?" submit the following report: "Because we believe and teach the doctrine taught by Christ and His apostles, which is free grace, free communion, immersion in water as the Biblical mode of baptism."

W. R. LATHAM, 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 meeting as a Ministers' and Deacons' Meeting, with Antioch church, Fayette county, Alabama, on Saturday before the fifth Sunday in November, 1903.

W. B. MONTGOMERY, Moderator.

J. A. BOSWELL, Clerk.

ROLL OF DELEGATES.

Mount Moriah—T. A. Springfield, J. E. Woods and R. E. Hardin.

Macedonia—W. J. McAdams, A. J. Atkins and J. S. Stokes.

Shiloh—J. C. Hickman, John H. Hannah and W. H. Keon.

Mt. Zion—J. A. Boswell, T. C. Harless and J. C. Winter.
Antioch—B. D. Williams, T. J. Williams and J. W.

Wallis.

Holly Springs—None.

Union—None.

Phillips Chapel—W. A. Sanford, Geo. W. Phillips and J. C. Phillips.

Hattie's Chapel—None.

Tabernacle—J. W. Montgomery, J. W. E. Shelby and J. T. Cunningham.

STATISTICAL TABLE OF MT. MORIAH FREEWILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION FOR 1903.

CHURCHES AND COUNTIES.	NAMES OF DELEGATES.	PASTORS	CLERKS AND POSTOFFICE	Baptised.....	Received by Letter..	Dismissed by Letter.	Rec'd on Confession.	Restored.....	Deceased.....	Excluded.....	Days of Meeting.....	Members.....	Paid for Minutes.....
Mt. Moriah, Pickens Co.....	T. A. Springfield, S. J. Jones, J. E. Woods.....	Woods Springfield	N. E. Harsden.....	9	1				2	1	1	140	\$2.50
Macedonia, Pickens Co.....	W. J. McAdams, A. W. Stokes, A. J. Adkins.....	J. D. Byars.....	J. S. Stokes, Milport.....						1		3	61	2.55
Shiloh, Pickens Co.....	W. H. Koons, E. J. Brooks, J. A. Hickman.....	J. E. Mathis.....	J. H. Hanah, Koon.....	7	5						1	69	2.50
Tabernacle, Tuscaloosa Co.....	J. P. Montgomery, P. J. Frayer, J. G. Pearson.....	W. B. Montgomery	J. T. Cuninghams, May, Ala....	3			3		3		2	62	2.00
Antioch, Fayette Co.....	A. J. Talor, R. D. Belk, John W. Wallis	J. D. Byars.....	J. A. Richards, Kennedy.....						2		3	105	2.50
Union, Pickens Co.....	A. C. Hamlin, W. G. Claton, E. Z. Mayfield.....	Woods Springfield.	E. Z. Mayfield, Mayfield.....	3					1		4	64	1.30
Phillips Chapel, Tuscaloosa Co.....	Eld. J. M. Pinkerton.....	W. J. Harbin.....	J. C. Phillips, Reubin.....								1	14	1.00
Hatties Chapel, Pickens Co.....	L. N. Harrold, A. J. Pridmore, J. A. St. John.....	Woods Springfield.	L. F. Pridmore, Ethelsville....								3	19	1.50
Mt. Zion, Tuscaloosa Co.....	T. C. Harless, N. A. McGee.....	W. J. Harbin.....	J. A. Boswell, McConnell.....	1							1	3	1.50
				22	6	3			10	1		684	18.35