

MINUTES

...OF THE...

FIFTY-FOURTH ANNUAL SESSION

...OF THE...

MOUNT MORIAH

FREEWILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

HELD WITH

HATTIES CHAPEL CHURCH,

PICKENS COUNTY, ALA.,

OCTOBER 8TH, 9TH AND 10TH, 1904.

WOODS SPRINGFIELD, Moderator,

N. A. McGEE, Clerk.

The next session of this Association will be held with Mt. Zion Church in Tuscaloosa County, Alabama, on Saturday before the 2nd Sunday in October, 1905.

PROCEEDINGS

...OF THE...

MOUNT MORIAH FREEWILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

The fifty-fourth annual session of the Mt. Moriah Freewill Baptist Association of Alabama was held with Hattie's Chapel church in Pickens County, Ala., October 8th, 9th and 10th, 1904. The introductory sermon was preached by Elder J. D. Byars, he taking his text from 2nd chapter of Titus, 1st and 11th verses.

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 Brother W. E. Hardin, former Moderator.

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 delegates enrolled as per statistical table.

(2.) Proceeded to elect a Moderator and Clerk whereon Elder Wood Springfield was elected Moderator and N. A. McGee was elected Clerk.

(3.) Extended an invitation for the reception of new churches. None presented.

(4.) Called for corresponding messengers from sister associations whereupon Elder G. B. Taylor and Brother G. C.

Taylor, from the Vernon Association, came forward and were given the right hand of Christian fellowship by the Moderator and were invited to seats with us.

(5.) Invited visiting brethren to seats with us.

(6.) The following committees were appointed:

On Order of Business—Elders W. B. Montgomery and J. D. Byars and Brother W. E. Hardin, with the Moderator and Clerk.

On Devotional Service—Brothers Zel Fields and J. A. St. John.

On Temperance—Brothers J. A. Boswell and Jes. Fields.

On Finance—Brothers W. V. Curry and W. H. Koons.

On Sunday Schools—Brothers W. M. Coward and J. S. Stokes.

On Deceased Members—Brothers J. W. Montgomery and J. A. Hickman.

On Resolutions and Queries—Brothers T. M. Bailey and J. W. E. Shelby.

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

SUNDAY SERVICES.

At 9 a. m., Elder W. B. Montgomery preached, taking his text from the 10th chapter of Romans, 8th verse.

At 11 a. m., Elder J. D. Byars preached. His text was from 1st Timothy 4th chapter 16th verse.

At 3 p. m., Elder G. B. Taylor preached. His text was from Phillippians 4th chapter, 19th verse.

At night, Elder Tucker, of the M. E. church south, preached.

All the sermons were edifying and 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.) The roll was called and messengers answered to their names.

(2.) The minutes of Saturday were read and approved. The articles of faith were read.

(3.) Called for reports 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. (2.) That the next session of this Association be held with Mt. Zion Church in Tuscaloosa County, Ala., on Saturday before the second Sunday in October, 1905, and that Elder J. E. Mathis preach the introductory sermon and that Elder Woods Springfield be his alternate. (3.) That we elect the Secretary to the office of Treasurer and that he be appointed to superintend the printing of the minutes and have them sent to each church as per amount paid by each church and that he be allowed \$5 for his services.

Respectfully Submitted,

W. B. MONTGOMERY, Chairman.

On motion, the report was received and the committee discharged. Considered by sections and adopted as a whole.

COMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATION.

We, your Committee, beg leave to report that we find our ministers all in good faith and standing.

On motion, report was received and committee discharged.

COMMITTEE ON TEMPERANCE.

We, your Committee on Temperance, 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 to 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,

J. A. BOSWELL, Chairman.

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

COMMITTEE ON SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

We, your Committee on Sunday Schools, beg leave to report that we very much regret that we find but little interest

taken in the Sunday Schools among our people, and we urge them to do everything in their power to build up a Sunday School in every church, believing that the early impressions made on our children are the most lasting.

Respectfully Submitted,
N. M. COWARD, Chairman.

COMMITTEE ON DECEASED MEMBERS.

We, your Committee on Deceased Members, beg leave to report, though with the deepest regret, that seven of our devoted members have fallen to sleep in Jesus since our last annual meeting; to-wit: From Mt. Moriah church, Sister J. T. Fant; from Macedonia, Sister Mollie Adkins, Sister Annie Todd and Brother William Stokes; from Shiloh, Sister Ellen Findley; from Antioch, Sister Sallie Holly; from Hattie's Chapel, Sister Mary Pridmore.

These have gently crossed the river,
They have laid their armor by,
They are 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,
J. W. MONTGOMERY, Ch'm'n.

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

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE.

We, your Committee, find in the hands of the Treasurer the sum of \$20.00.

W. V. CERRY, Chairman.
CLERK.

Since then Phillips' Chapel paid for minutes \$1.35, making total in treasury \$21.35.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS.

Moved, that we send Elders J. D. Byars and W. B. Montgomery to hold a meeting at Holly Springs church and this body contribute to them.

Adopted and money made up for them.

On motion, Elder S. W. Williams' name was added to the roll of ministers.

Moved, that each church in this Association be required

to make a detailed financial report embracing the following items: Pastor's Salary, Sabbath Schools, Education, Church Erections and Needy Poor and Contingent Expenses and other items of expense necessarily incurred in connection with the church work.

On motion, it was adopted.

COMMITTEE ON RESOLUTIONS.

Wherefore, seeing that there is a great and necessary demand for labor in the Lord's vineyard, and whereas, many who are in the field are so poorly supported as to have to resort to manual labor to provide for their needs,

Therefore, be it resolved, that it ought to be and it is the duty of each individual church in this Association to carefully and sufficiently support, and as far as possible relieve their pastors and preachers from financial embarrassment that they may give their whole time and talent to preaching the gospel and win souls to Christ.

Be it further resolved, That a more systematic plan be adopted to provide church funds and to pay pastors and preachers so that the same may be paid in regular quarterly payments, all of which is respectfully submitted.

E. J. WING, Chairman.

On motion, it was adopted.

COMMITTEE ON RESOLUTIONS AND QUERIES.

We, your Committee, beg leave to report that the ministers and messengers composing this Association tender heartfelt thanks to the good people of Hattie's Chapel church for kindnesses shown us during our stay with them, and especially the good sisters who have borne the heat and burden of the day.

Respectfully submitted,

T. M. BAILEY, Chairman.

On motion, the report was received and adopted.

ELDER WOODS SPRINGFIELD, Moderator.

N. A. MCGEE, Clerk.

ORDAINED MINISTERS AND THEIR POSTOFFICES.

Elder W. R. Latham	Gordo, Pickens County, Ala.
W. J. Coward	McShan, Pickens County, Ala.
John S. Hinton	May, Tuscaloosa County, Ala.
Woods Springfield	Delmarville, Pickens County, Ala.
Jas. D. Byars	Millport, Lamar County, Ala.

J. E. Mathis	Millport, Lamar County, Ala.
W. J. Harbin	Reubin, Tuscaloosa County, Ala.
James B. Davis	West Point, Clay County, Miss.
J. M. Pinkerton	Reubin, Tuscaloosa County, Ala.
W. B. Montgomery	McConnell's, Tuscaloosa County, Ala.
J. W. Cook	Millport, Lamar County, Ala.
S. W. Williams	Gordo, Pickens County, Ala.

CONSTITUTION.

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

Article 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.

Article 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.

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

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

Article 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.

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

Article 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.

Rule 1. The Association shall be called to order by the Moderator who presided at the last session. The 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.

Article 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.

Article 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.

Article 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.

Article 5. We believe that Christ, by His death and suffering, 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.

Article 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.

Article 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—James 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; Romans 2:9; John 3:19.

Article 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 modify the deeds of the body he shall live, and, therefore, man is always a proper subject of admonition and exhortation. Hebrew 11:12-13; Romans 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.

Article 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.

Article 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.

Article 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.

Article 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.

Article 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.

PROCEEDINGS

...OF THE...

UNION MEETING

...OF THE...

MOUNT MORIAH FREEWILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

The union meeting of the Mount Moriah Freewill Baptist Association met in its fifteenth annual session with Antioch church in Fayette county, Ala., on Saturday before the second Sunday in August, 1904.

The Introductory Sermon was preached by Elder W. B. Montgomery. His text was Titus 22:14. After devotional services an intermission of an hour and a half was taken for recreation and refreshments.

At the appointed time the ministers and messengers assembled in the house and the body was called to order by Eld. W. B. Montgomery, former Moderator, the former Clerk being absent J. T. Cunningham was elected Clerk pro tem. Prayer was offered by Elder W. J. Coward, and the business was 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 Moderator and Clerk, whereupon Elder W. B. Montgomery was elected Moderator, and J. T. Cunningham was elected Clerk.
- (3.) Extended an invitation for the reception of new churches.

- (4.) Invited visiting brethren to seats with us.
- (5.) The following committees were appointed:

On Order of Business—Elders J. D. Byars, J. E. Mathis and W. J. Coward.

On Devotional Exercises—Brother J. W. Montgomery, with the deacons of Antioch church.

Moved, that the Queries be taken up. Query No. 1 was taken up and discussed. Answer—Free Salvation to all.

Query No. 2 That the gospel be preached as Paul preached it.
Query No. 3. The Moderator appointed Brothers J. E. Mathis and W. E. Hardin to draft an answer to it.

COMMITTEE ON DEVOTIONAL EXERCISES.

We, your Committee on Devotional Exercises, beg leave to report that Elder J. E. Mathis preach at 9 o'clock a. m.; Elder Woods Springfield preach at 11 o'clock a. m.

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

SUNDAY SERVICES.

Elder J. E. Mathis preached at 9 o'clock, taking his text from Romans 1:16. Elder Woods Springfield preached at 11 o'clock. His text was Galatians 2:20.

These sermons were delivered to a large concourse of orderly and attentive people. The mid-day service was commemorated by taking the Lord's Supper.

MONDAY—MORNING SESSION.

The Union Meeting met pursuant to adjournment and the meeting was called to order by the Moderator. Prayer was offered by Brother W. E. Hardin.

- (1.) Roll called and delegates answered to their names.
- (2.) Minutes of Saturday were read and adopted.

COMMITTEE ON ORDER OF BUSINESS.

We, your Committee on Order of Business beg leave to submit the following report: 1. That we proceed after the usual order of business. 2. We recommend that the Union Meeting consider the proposition of the Vernon Association in regard to the printing press. 3. That the next session of the Union Meeting convene with Union church, Pickens county, and that Brother W. J. Coward preach the introductory sermon, Brother J. E. Mathis alternate.

J. D. BYARS, Chairman.

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

On motion, the second article was taken up and discussed.

Moved, that we send a delegate to the meeting of the Printing Press Convention, whereupon Elder W. B. Montgomery was elected delegate, and J. D. Byars alternate.

COMMITTEE ON RESOLUTIONS AND QUERIES.

We, your Committee, beg leave to submit the following report:

Resolved, That we, ministers and messengers, composing

the Union Meeting, tender our heartfelt thanks to the good people of Antioch for their kindnesses shown us during our stay with them, and especially the good sisters who have borne the heat and burden of the day.

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

On motion, the query was taken up and, by motion, it was ordered tabled.

We, your Committee to draft answers to Queries beg leave to submit the following: Answer to Query No. 3. "Humble and sincere prayer moved the great heart of God, who has all power."
J. E. MATHIS, Chairman.

The business of the Union Meeting having ended there was a hymn sung and the parting hand was taken and the meeting adjourned to meet in its next session with Union church, Pickens County, Alabama, on Saturday before the second Sunday in August, 1905.
J. T. CUNNINGHAM, Clerk. W. B. MONTGOMERY, Moderator.

ROLL OF DELEGATES.

Mount Moriah—R. L. Burgess, T. B. Smith and W. E. Hardin.

Macedonia—O. B. Hardin, J. M. Fields and I. Fields.

Shiloh—J. H. Pinkerton and E. G. Latham.

Tabernacle—J. T. Cunningham and J. W. Montgomery.

Antioch—G. W. Johnson, W. E. Caar and B. D. Williams.

Union—G. W. Noland and A. T. Calvin.

Phillip's Chapel—Mack Lynn and Jeff Sanford.

Hattie's Chapel—By pastor.

Mount Zion—J. S. Montgomery and T. C. Harless.

STATISTICAL TABLE OF MOUNT MORIAH FREEWILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION FOR 1904.

CHURCHES AND COUNTIES.	NAMES OF DELEGATES.	PASTORS.	CLERKS AND POSTOFFICE	Baptized	Received by Letter	Dismissed by Letter	Received on Confession	Restored	Deceased	Excluded	Days of Meeting	Members	Paid on Minutes
Mount Moriah, Pickens County	S. J. Jones, W. M. Coward, H. W. Burgess	Woods Springfield	T. B. Smith, McShan, Ala.	5	1	4		1	1	2	2	136	83 10
Macedonia, Pickens County	J. Fields, J. M. Fields, J. S. Stokes	J. D. Byars	J. S. Stokes, Millport, Ala.			1			3	1	1	159	2 50
Shiloh, Pickens County	W. H. Koons, J. A. Hickman, W. R. Pearson	Woods Springfield	J. H. Hannah, Gordo, Ala.	4				1	1		3	58	3 15
Tabernacle, Tuscaloosa County	J. W. Montgomery, J. W. E. Shelby	W. B. Montgomery	J. T. Cunningham, May	5	1			1			1	75	2 25
Antioch, Fayette County	B. D. Williams, G. B. John- son, R. D. Belk	J. M. Pinkerton	J. A. Richards, Kennedy								2	45	2 45
Union, Pickens County	J. A. Pool, W. V. Curry, T. M. Bailey		E. Z. Mayfield, Mayfield	14		2		1		1		118	3 10
Phillips Chapel, Tuscaloosa Co			J. C. Phillips, Reubin, Ala.										1 35
Hatties Chapel, Pickens County	F. F. Pridmore, J. A. Stokes, A. J. Pridmore	Woods Springfield	L. F. Pridmore, Ethelville	1	5				1				1 45
Mt. Zion, Tuscaloosa County	J. S. Boswell, J. S. Montgomery, C. C. McGee	W. B. Montgomery	J. A. Boswell, McConnells	8	1							26	2 00
				37	8	7		4	6	4	9	647	20 35