

MINUTES

—OF THE—

FIFTY-NINTH ANNUAL SESSION

—OF THE—

MOUNT MORIAH

Free Will Baptist Association of Ala.,

HELD WITH

Antioch Church, Fayette County, Alabama,

OCTOBER, 9, 10, 11,

1909.

AYDEN, N. C.
FREE WILL BAPTIST PRINT.
1910.

PROCEEDINGS

—OF THE—

MOUNT MORIAH CONFERENCE.

The fifty-ninth annual session of the Mt. Moriah Free Will Baptist Association of Alabama was held at Antioch church, Fayette County, Alabama, Oct. the 9, 10, 11, 1909.

The introductory sermon was preached by Rev. J. E. Mathis, text, John 3: 4.

After preaching, an intermission of one and one-half hours was taken for recreation and refreshments.

In due time the ministers and messengers repaired to the house and after prayer and song service the association was called to order by Rev. J. D. Byars, former moderator.

The former clerk officiated until the body was organized.

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

Then proceeded to elect moderator and clerk, whereupon Rev. J. D. Byars was elected moderator and J. A. Boswell clerk.

Opened the door for the reception of new churches, whereupon Pleasant Hill church presented a petitionary letter praying for admission to this body.

A motion to admit her was carried, and her delegates were received in due form.

Called for corresponding messengers from sister associations, whereupon Rev. J. A. Brown and Bro. T. A. Guin of Vernon Association and Rev. L. G. Leggett of North River Association were received.

Invited visiting brethren to seats with us.

The following committees were appointed:

Order of Business—Rev. W. B. Montgomery, Chm.,

Rev. J. E. Mathis, Bro. J. G. Pearson with moderator and clerk.

Devotional Service—O. B. Harding, with deacons of Antioch church.

Temperance—Dee Pinkerton, A. O. Blake.

Finance—J. W. Shelby, W. A. Harris.

Sabbath Schools—O. L. Pearson, J. S. Stokes.

Deceased Members—J. S. Loftis, I. J. W. St. John.

Resolutions and Queries—W. J. McAdams, J. A. Hickman, J. P. Montgomery.

Publication, Education, Literature—Entire body of ministers, Rev. J. E. Mathis, Chm.

Moral Reform—J. H. Zeanah, J. A. Pool, W. H. Whatley, T. V. Wheat, J. A. Pridmore, J. M. Lynn, W. A. Winter, W. R. Falls, T. W. Janes.

We, your committee on Devotion, beg leave to report that Rev. J. A. Brown preach Sunday 9:30 a. m., Rev. Woods Springfield at 11 a. m. Rev. W. B. Montgomery, alternate, Rev. J. D. Byars at night.

O. B. HARDIN, Chairman.

Motion, to adjourn until Monday 8 a. m. was carried.

Sunday Services.

Rev. I. A. Brown preached at 9:30 a. m., text, Gen. 49:10. Rev. Woods Springfield preached at 11 a. m. text, Luke 14:15-25. Rev. J. D. Byars preached at night, text, Gen. 45:24.

The sacrament of the Lord's Supper was commemorated after the midday service and all Christians were invited to participate with no restriction but that of God's word, "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 A. M.

The Association met pursuant to adjournment.

After song and prayer service, the moderator called the body to order.

Roll was called and delegates answered to their names.

Minutes of Saturday were read and approved.

Report of committees were called for and they reported as follows:

Report of Committees.

ORDER OF BUSINESS—We your committee on Document and order of Business, report as follows:

1. We recommend that we proceed after the usual order of business.

2. We recommend that the next session of this association be held with Mt. Moriah church, Pickens county, Ala., and that Rev. W. B. Montgomery preach the introductory sermon and that Rev. J. E. Mathis be his alternate.

3. We recommend that the Secretary be elected Treasurer, and that he superintend the printing of the minutes, that he be allowed \$5.00 for his services.

4. We recommend that this body take steps to put an evangelist in the field of this association and that he be allowed \$2.00 per day for actual service rendered.

5. We recommend that this association request the state convention to put out a state evangelist who will be subject to the call of the state executive committee and that the committee contract with him.

6. We recommend that this body elect a committee of three who shall take oversight of churches and ministers, contract and pay the evangelist for his services.

REV. W. B. MONTGOMERY, Chm.

Motion to receive report and discharge same. Motion carried.

On motion report taken up by sections, discussed and adopted as a whole.

TEMPERANCE—We your committee on Temperance beg leave to recommend the adoption of the former report as follows: In view of the fact that the subject of intemperance has been discussed and by an organized effort by the various denominations and thinking citizens for good morals, and religion, these have been a glorious victory in putting out the sale and making of intoxicating drinks. We recommend that we use our greatest efforts and influence against the use, making

and selling in violation of the laws of our state and that will see so far as they come to our knowledge that all persons violating laws will be prosecuted. Also recommend that the ministers will be faithful in warning the members to abstain from its use as a beverage and that our churches see that the discipline is strictly executed in supervision of its evils.

J. H. PINKERTON, Chm.

By motion, report received and committee discharged.

FINANCE—We your committee on Finance beg leave to report that we find in hands of treasurer, \$ 7.97
Collected at this session, 21.05
For state minutes, 2.80

Total, \$31.82

J. W. E. SHELBY, Chm.

On motion, report received, adopted and committee discharged.

SABBATH SCHOOLS.—We, your committee on Sabbath Schools, beg leave to report that we find only two Sabbath Schools reported in our churches. Therefore, we urge upon our churches that they organize and perpetuate a Sabbath School realizing that the usefulness of our children depends largely upon their training. We sincerely urge upon our ministers to impress upon our churches their duty on this line as we believe Sabbath Schools are a light to a community and a prop to a church when carried on in the right way.

O. L. PEARSON, Chairman.

On motion, report received and committee discharged.

DECEASED MEMBERS.—We, your committee, beg leave to report that we find seven of our devoted members have fallen asleep in Jesus since our last annual meeting as follows: Mt. Moriah—Bro. T. Cowart, Sister Rosa Nollens. Shiloh—Rev. W. R. Lathan. Tabernacle—Sister Lon Shelby. Philips Chapel—Sister Vada Montgomery. Hatties Chapel—Bro. T. V. Harrauld. Union Hill—Bro. Johnson.

Don't grieve for those who are gone,
Who are better off than we,
But cheer the drooping heart
With thoughts of eternity.

As death is but a sleep,
A rest for the weary soul,
A bridge to pass us over,
To that joyous heavenly goal.

Grieve not for those who've passed
Death's limit here below,
And entered into glory,
In that world we do not know,

But joyous let us live,
As we know all things are best,
Done by our Lord and Savior,
Who'll give us eternal rest.

J. S. LOFTIS, Chairman.

On motion, report received, adopted and committee discharged.

FINANCIAL REPORT OF CHURCHES.

Mt. Moriah. Church property,	\$1000.00
Pastors,	100.00
Minutes,	1.50
Total,	\$1101.50

Union. Church property,	\$500.00
Pastor,	30.00
Missions,	10.00
Minutes,	1.50
Total,	\$541.50

Tabernacle. Church property,	\$825.00
Missions,	11.25
Minutes,	2.50
Pastor,	19.00
State minutes,	.50
Total,	\$858.25

No report from other churches.

Resolutions and Queries.

Resolved, That each church in our association make an earnest effort to raise means to support our pastors and aid in the mission work, and that we co-operate

with our ministers by attending conference, prayer meetings, Sunday schools, etc.

2. That we urge our ministers to devote all the time they can to the work of the ministry and that they travel as extensively as possible and spread the good tidings of Salvation.

3. That we tender our sincere thanks to the good people of Antioch church and vicinity and especially the sisters who have borne the burdens of the day, for their kindness and hospitality shown us during our stay with them.

W. J. McADAMS, Chm.

PUBLICATION, EDUCATION AND LITERATURE.—We, your committee on publication, literature and education, submit the following:

We recommend the continued use of our existing establishments for the present.

2. We recommend the loyal use of our common literature.

3. We recommend that our people take a greater interest in the education of their children, training the mind to think, the heart to feel and the body to act in true accord to the teachings of the Bible. Education gives power. By it we are made to more fully comprehend and understand the truth, the pure and beautiful. It brings to light of individual life. Its demand was never greater than now. Young men entering the ministry should be encouraged and aided in through preparation for so grand a calling.

Respectfully submitted,

REV. J. E. MATHIS, Chairman.

Motion to adopt was carried.

MORAL REFORM—We your committee on Moral Reform beg leave to report as follows:

Whereas, the morals are becoming so corrupt and our church members are found too frequently associating and participating in the growing, that are said to be innocent amusements. We recommend that our churches and associations rise up and condemn every appearance of evil. That we begin in the homes, first by living a consecrated, Christian, home life, with a strict home service and home government, bringing the children up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord; protesting against evil in all forms, teaching them to

shun the appearance of evil, such as worldly amusements, any unbecoming language, any by-words. Intemperance in all forms should be prohibited as much as possible, such as controlling the temper and all intoxicating drinks which we would throw great stress upon. We urge all Christians to do all in their power to sweep this great evil out, and would urge our ministers of the Gospel to condemn these growing evils.

We recommend that all pastors preach a special sermon at least once a year on these growing evils.

J. H. ZEANAH, Chm.

Report received, adopted and committee discharged.

Miscellaneous.

Motion to draw warrant on treasurer for \$5.00 for state minutes. Motion carried.

Motion made to pay Rev. Woods Springfield \$3.00 for his expenses to state convention. Motion carried.

Motion to elect three delegates to State Convention. Motion carried.

Motion that chair appoint said delegates. Motion carried.

Delegates—J. T. Cunningham, A. J. Taylor, J. A. Hickman.

Financial Secretary, J. T. Cunningham, of executive committee reported, old committee held.

A motion to refund to churches, money paid into his hands. Motion carried.

Motion to elect an evangelist, was carried, resulting in the election of Rev. W. B. Montgomery.

Roll of Delegates.

Mt. Moriah—Frank Weathers, I. J. W. St. John and T. N. Janes.

Macedonia—O. B. Hardin, J. S. Stokes, N. J. McAdams.

Shiloh—J. A. Hickman, J. H. Zeanah, J. H. Pinkerton.

Tabernacle—J. P. Montgomery, T. V. Wheat, J. S. Loftis.

Antioch—B. D. Williams, S. H. Williams, T. J. Moore.

Union—W. V. Curry, W. H. Whalley, J. A. Pool.
Phillips Chapel—W. R. Falls, M. J. Sandford, J. M. Lynn.

Hattie's Chapel—L. F. Pridmore, A. O. Blake, A. J. Pridmore.

Mt. Zion—J. A. Boswell, J. W. E. Shelby, W. A. Minter.

Union Hill—W. A. Harris, A. D. Hodge, J. O. Hollingsworth.

Pleasant Hill—J. G. Pearson, O. L. Pearson.

The associational labors now being ended, adjourned to meet with Mt. Moriah church, Pickens county, Ala., on Saturday before 2nd Sunday in Oct., 1910.

J. D. BYARS, Mod.

J. A. BOSWELL, Clerk.

PROCEEDINGS OF UNION MEETING.

The union meeting of Mt. Moriah, Free Will Baptist Association, met in its 20th annual session, with Macedonia church, Pickens county, Ala., on Saturday before the 4th Sunday in July, 1909.

The introductory sermon was preached by Rev. J. M. Pinkerton. Text—Matt. 12: 50.

An intermission of one and one half hours was taken for refreshments.

At the appointed time the ministers and messengers assembled in the house and the body was called to order by Rev. W. B. Montgomery.

The former moderator and former clerk being absent, a motion was made that Bro. J. W. E. Shelby act as Secretary pro-tem.

Motion made that if a delegate be absent we add a member of that church to delegation if one be present.

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

Proceeded to elect moderator and clerk which was

Rev. W. B. Montgomery Moderator and J. W. E. Shelby Clerk.

The following committees were appointed:

Devotion—B. D. Williams, R. L. Burgess, with deacons of Macedonia church.

Order of Business—Rev. J. D. Byars, Rev. J. E. Mathis, Rev. J. M. Pinkerton, with moderator and clerk.

Your committee on devotion makes a partial report, that we have song and prayer service at 9:30 a. m.

Preaching at 11 a. m. by Rev. W. B. Montgomery. Text—St. John 11:25.

At 5:30 song and prayer service.

At 7 p. m., preaching by Rev. J. M. Pinkerton. Text—Matt. 5: 14.

Adjourned until Monday a. m.

Monday Morning 8 A. M.

The Union Meeting met pursuant to adjournment, with Rev. W. B. Montgomery in the chair.

The roll was called and delegates answered to their names.

Saturday's minutes were read and approved.

Reports of committees were called for and presented as follows.

Reports of Committees.

ORDER OF BUSINESS—We your committee, recommend that we proceed after the usual order of business, that the union meeting meet annually on Saturday before the 4th Sunday in July, and convene at the wishes of the church. That we hold four services each day; after the first day at 9 a. m., at 11 a. m., at 4 p. m., and at night. That the next session be held with Tabernacle church, Tuscaloosa county, Ala. That Rev. J. D. Byars preach the introductory sermon and J. E. Mathis be his alternate.

Respectfully submitted,

J. D. BYARS, Chm.

Report received, adopted and committed discharged.

RESOLUTIONS AND QUERIES—We your committee beg

leave to report the following resolution: That no delegate be allowed to absent himself from this body, without leave of moderator or legal excuse until the business is finished; if so he shall give satisfaction to the association and his home church. That no minister absent himself from these meetings and devotional services until they are finished, without leave of the pastor of the church, if so he must give satisfaction at the association. That we tender our sincere thanks to the good people of Macedonia and vicinity and especially the good sisters who have so nobly borne the heat and the burden of the day for kindness and hospitality shown us during this session.

R. D. BELK, Chm.

Report received, adopted and committee discharged.

After all the business was completed, the union meeting closed by taking the parting hand, to meet with Tabernacle church, Tuscaloosa county, Ala., on Saturday before 4th Sunday in July, 1910.

REV. W. B. MONTGOMERY, Mod.

J. W. E. SHELBY, Clerk.

Mt. Moriah—S. J. James, I. J. W. StJohn.

Macedonia—O. B. Hardin, I. Fields, W. J. McAdams.

Shiloh—W. R. Buckhalter, J. H. Pinkerton.

Tabernacle—B. K. Montgomery, M. Montgomery.

Antioch—R. D. Williams, R. D. Belk.

Union—Not represented.

Phillips Chapel—J. M. Lynn.

Hatties Chapel—Not represented.

Mt. Zion—J. D. Montgomery, I. W. E. Shelby, T. C. Harden.

Union Hill—Not represented.

CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE 1. This Association shall be known as the Mount Moriah Free Will Baptist Association of Ala. and shall be 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 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 support doctrines of heresy, or allows any ministers 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 matter 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.

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.

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.

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.

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 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, 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 debate is 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 officers 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 the 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 holy 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 unalternate 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 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.

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 consequences 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—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.

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 giving 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. Hebrew 11:12, 13; Romans 12:14; Mark 14:12; Ezek. 18:24; Rev. 2:3; Ezek. 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 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 a 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; and joys of the righteous and the punishment of the wicked will be eternal upon principles of grace and justice

13. We believe in open and 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.

ORDAINED MINISTERS AND ADDRESSES.

J. S. Hinton.....	McConnells	Ala.
Woods Springfield.....	McShan.....	"
J. D. Byars.....	Millport	"
J. E. Mathis.....	Millport	"
W. J. Harbin.....	Kuykendall	"
J. M. Pinkerton.....	McConnells	"
W. B. Montgomery.....	McConnells	"

Licentiates from Tabernacle Church.

M. Montgomery.....	McConnells.....	Ala.
T. V. Wheat.....	McConnells.....	"

Executive Committee.

J. T. Cunningham, L. F. Pridmore, W. H. Koon.

STATISTICAL TABLE.

CHURCHES AND COUNTIES	PASTORS	CLERKS AND P. O.	Baptized	Rec. by letter	Dis. by letter	Restored	Deceased	Excluded	Meeting days	No. of members	Minute fund	Joined other Chs.
Mt. Moriah, Pickens.....Co	J D Byars	A. R. Wing, McShan. Ala	9	....	2	..	3	..	....	122	\$2.50	....
Macedonia, "	" "	J. S. Stokes, Millport..... "	8	....	....	....	....	....	1	176	2.50	....
Shiloh, "	" "	J. H. Zeanah, Gordo. .... "	....	3	....	....	1	3	..	64	2.00	..
Tabernacle, Tuscaloosa.....	W B. Montgomery	J. T. Cunningham, May, ..	8	1	....	....	1	1	1	89	2.50	....
Antioch, Fayette.....	J. M. Pinkerton	R. D. Belk, Belk..... ..	6	....	....	....	....	....	..	97	2 00	..
Union, Pickens.....	W. B. Montgomery	E. S. Tur, Mayfield	6	1	3	..	....	....	2	81	1.50	....
Phillips Chapel, Tuscaloosa..	" "	G W. Philips, McConnells ..	....	....	....	....	1	..	....	79	2 05	..
Hatties Chapel, Pickens	W. Springfield.....	L. F. Pridmore, Ethelville ..	4	1	....	....	1	....	....	44	2.00	....
Mt. Zion, Tuscaloosa.....	W. B. Montgomery	J. A. Boswell, McConnells ..	5	2	..	....	....	....	3	67	2.00	..
Union Hill, Pickens.....	W. Springfield.....	W. A. Harris, McShan ...	10	....	....	....	1	..	3	34	2.00	....
Pleasant Hill, Tusk	" "	J. M. Bailey, Holman..... "	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	13	1.00	....