

PROCEEDINGS

—OF THE—

Mount Moriah

FREE-WILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

OF ALABAMA.



64th Annual Session

HELD WITH

SULPHUR SPRINGS CHURCH,

Tuscaloosa County, Alabama,

October 10, 11 and 12, 1914.

The next Session of this Association will be held with Union Hill Church, Pickens County, Alabama, on Saturday before the Second Sunday in October, 1915.

PROCEEDINGS.



The sixty-fourth annual session of the Mount Moriah Freewill Baptist Association was held with Sulphur Springs Church, Tuscaloosa County, Alabama, October 10, 11 and 12, 1914. The Introductory Sermon was preached by Rev. J. D. Byars; Text, Thesalonians 1:1, after which 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. After reading the 28th Psalm and prayer, the body was called to order by the former Moderator; the former Clerk serving until the body was fully organized. The letters were called for and handed in and read and names of delegates enrolled as per statistical table. The association proceeded to elect Moderator and Clerk, whereupon Rev. J. E. Mathis was elected Moderator and J. S. Stokes, Clerk.

Extended invitation for new churches; received none.

Call for corresponding messengers; none present.

Invited visiting brethren to seats with us; none present.

The following committee was appointed on Order of Business: W. B. Montgomery, J. M. Pinkerton, J. D. Byars, with Moderator and Clerk.

On Devotional Services: Dock Pearson, with deacons of Sulphur Spring Church.

On Temperance: J. T. Johnson, J. A. Hickman, E. E. Keasler.

On Sabbath Schools: E. S. Teer, I. P. Robertson, A. J. Taylor.

On Finance: W. J. McAdams, T. A. Guin.

On Deceased Members: F. H. Ham, T. V. Wheat, E. R. Beams.

On Resolutions and Querries: W. J. Harbin, M. Montgomery, Thomas Laboon, M. J. Sandford.

On Publication, Education and Literature: W. A. Harris, W. T. Driver, A. L. Pearson.

On Moral Reform: R. D. Belk, W. W. Mathis, A. W. Strickland, T. C. Harless.

ON DEVOTION.

We, your committee, beg leave to report that Rev. T. L. Walker preach Sunday at 9:30; Rev. J. E. Mathis at 11 a. m.; Rev. Thomas Laboon at 3:30.

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

SUNDAY SERVICES.

Rev. T. L. Walker preached at 9:30; text, St. John 14:6.

Rev. J. E. Mathis preached at 11 a. m.; text, Acts 10:34.

Rev. Thomas Laboon preached at 3:30; text, St. John 14:1, 2, 3.

These sermons were delivered to a very large concourse of attentive people. After the mid-day services the ment of the Lord's supper was commemorated.

MONDAY MORNING 8 O'CLOCK.

The association met pursuant to adjournment and after reading a scriptural lesson and prayer, the Moderator called the house to order and the following business was conducted:

1. Roll was called and messengers answered to their names.
2. Minutes of Saturday read and approved.
3. Report of the various committees was called for and read.

COMMITTEE ON ORDER OF BUSINESS.

1. We recommend the usual order of business. Adopted.

2. That the next session of the association be held with Union Hill Church, Pickens County, Alabama, on Saturday before the second Sunday in October, 1915, and that Rev. W. B. Montgomery preach the Introductory Sermon, with Rev. J. E. Mathis as alternate. Adopted.

3. That the Secretary superintend the printing of the minutes and he correspond with printing offices for printing the minutes and he be allowed \$10.00 for his services. Adopted.

4. That we continue Associational Executive Committee with W. B. Montgomery as chairman. Adopted.

Received the report and discharged the committee.

TEMPERANCE.

We, your committee on Temperance, beg leave to report: In view of the fact that the subject of intemperance and by an organized effort of the various denominations and thinking citizens for good morals and religion there has 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 of making and selling in violation of the laws of our state, and that we see so far as as they come to our knowledge that all persons violating the laws will be prosecuted. We recommend that the ministers be faithful in warning the members to abstain from its use as a beverage, and that the churches see that the discipline is strictly executed.

J. A. Hickman, Chm.

Report received and committee discharged.

SABBATH SCHOOLS.

We, your committee on Sunday Schools, submit the following: Some of our churches have good Sabbath Schools. As the Sabbath School is the training department of the churches for our boys and girls, we recommend that all our churches organize and maintain Sabbath Schools. We recommend and insist that our people will take their children to Sunday School and not send them for the church should be in the Sunday School. We further recommend that the churches use their best members as officers and teachers.

E. S. Teer, Chm.

Report received and committee discharged.

DECEASED MEMBERS.

We, your committee, beg leave to report that we find since our last annual meeting that thirteen (13) of our members have fallen asleep in Jesus, as follows:

Macedonia—Sisters Ida McAdams, Madia Stokes.

Antioch—Sister Alma McDonald, Bro. W. B. Taylor.

Hattie's Chapel—Bro. L. T. Pridmore.

Phillips Chapel—Bros. Dee Montgomery, George Freeman, Sister Margaret Gray.

Unity Grove—Rev. W. A. Robertson.

Tabernacle—Sisters Jessie Daffron, Mary A. Cunningham.

Friendship—Bro. Baker. F. H. Ham, Chm.

Report received and committee discharged.

RESOLUTIONS AND QUERRIES.

We, your committee on Resolutions and Querries, resolve that this body tender its sincere thanks to Sulphur Springs Church and the good people of the community for the able manner in which they supported this Association and for their kindness during our stay with them.

W. J. Harbin, Chm.

Received the report and discharged the committee.

PUBLICATION, EDUCATION AND LITERATURE.

We, your committee, beg leave to report: 1. We recommend that the printing of our minutes be done where the churches can get in possession of them as soon as possible. 2. Seeing that we are in a progressive age we recommend that our people take greater interest in education and training our children, as the moral training of the mind has a great tendency to cause the mind to think, the heart to feel the necessity of higher attainments, and we especially urge our people to read and study the Bible, as all of needed revelations comes from God through the Bible. The demand for education was never greater than now. Young men entering the ministry should be encouraged to strive for a more thorough education. 3. We recommend that we be very careful in selecting for our home reading, more especially for our children, believing that the reading of novels and histories on the lives of bad characters have a tendency to lead our young men astray. 4. We recommend that we use the Sunday School literature published by our own denomination. 5. We recommend that our church use some good paper published by our own denomination. 6. We recommend that this Association aid in the education of our young ministers. Moved that we adopt the 6th Article.

W. A. Harris, Chm.

Received the report and discharged committee.

FINANCE.

We, your committee on Finance, beg leave to report that we have collected at this session.....\$32 55
In hands of Treasurer.....3 20
Total.....\$35 75

W. J. McAdams, Chm.

Received the report and discharged the committee.

MORAL REFORM.

We, your committee, beg leave to report: Seemingly the minds of the people, more especially the young people, are inclined to seek after worldly amusements, which are inclined to corrupt their morals. 1. We recommend that the churches take a closer oversight over them and that they condemn all and everything that has the least influence in the direction to corrupt the morals or stagnate the brain so it would render them unfit for usefulness as Christians. We should condemn such worldly amusements, such as dancing and gambling, in any form, either by chance in shooting matches, raffling, marble playing on Sunday, or lying around railroad stations, or where we have no business.

R. D. Belk, Chm.

Received the report and committee discharged.

EXECUTIVE.

We, your Executive Committee, beg leave to report: 1. All of our ministers are in good standing as far as we have been able to learn. 2. We recommend that Friendship church be carried over another year. Carried. 3. We also recommend that our ministers seek to maintain more union and fellowship and a ministerial love to each other, as we know that the interest of our great cause depends on our ministers' forces.

J. A. Hickman, Chm.

Received the report and committee discharged.

ON MISSIONS.

Committee made their report that nothing had been done.

Received the report and discharged committee.

Moved, and it sustained, that Bro. John Hollman and Bro. Willie Kuykendall be dropped from the list as ministers.

ROLL OF DELEGATES.

Mt. Moriah—I. G. W. St. John, E. E. Keasler, R. L. Burgess.
Macedonia—J. S. Stokes, W. J. McAdams, W. W. Mathis.
Shiloh—J. A. Hickman, C. Montgomery, J. H. Zeanah.

Tabernacle—J. T. Cunningham, Bob Ramsey, Percy Montgomery.
 Antioch—A. J. Taylor, R. D. Belk, F. H. Ham.
 Union—E. S. Teer, C. E. Hamlin, W. H. Whatley.
 Phillips Chapel—M. J. Sandford, J. H. Holman, J. D. Montgomery.
 Hattie's Chapel—J. A. St. John, M. St. John, A. O. Blake.
 Mt. Zion—T. C. Harless, J. M. Spencer, J. S. Ramsey.
 Union Hill—W. A. Harris, Jessie Conner, W. D. Guy.
 Pleasant Hill—J. G. Pearson, O. L. Pearson, W. D. Watts.
 Friendship—
 Unity Grove—T. A. Guin, I. P. Robertson, J. T. Johnson.
 Pleasant Ridge—W. T. Driver, B. E. Strickland, Jones Strickland.
 Sulphur Spring—J. G. Kuykendall, F. L. Fields, G. W. Fields.

ORDAINED MINISTERS AND THEIR ADDRESS.

Rev. J. S. Hinton	McConnells,	Ala.	
Rev. Woods Springfield	McShan,	"	
Rev. J. D. Byars	Millport,	"	Route 1
Rev. J. E. Mathis	"	"	" 3
Rev. W. S. Harbin	Samantha	"	" 1
Rev. W. B. Montgomery	McConnells	"	
Rev. J. M. Pinkerton	"	"	
Rev. M. Montgomery	"	"	
Rev. T. V. Wheat	"	"	
Rev. T. T. Walker	New Lexington,	"	
Rev. W. E. Harbin	" "	"	
Rev. O. M. Archey	Berry,	"	

LICENTIATES.

C. O. Barnett	Samantha,	"	" 1
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The business being ended, the parting hand was taken and the Association adjourned to meet with Union Hill Church, Pickens County, Alabama, on Saturday before the Second Sunday in October, 1915.

REV. J. E. MATHIS, Moderator.

J. S. STOKES, Clerk.

PROCEEDINGS OF UNION MEETING.

Twenty-fourth annual session of the Union Meeting was held with Macedonia Church, Pickens County, Alabama, on Saturday before the Fourth Sunday in July, 1915. The Introductory Sermon was preached by Rev. W. B. Montgomery; text, St. John 6-67:7-17, after which an intermission of one and a half hours was taken for recreation and refreshments.

Pursuant to adjournment the body reassembled and the 23rd Psalm was read by the Moderator and prayer by Bro. O. B. Hardin.

First. Called for letters from the various churches. They were handed in, read and names of delegates enrolled as per statistical table.

Second. Proceeded to elect Moderator and Clerk, resulting in Rev. J. M. Pinkerton, Moderator and J. W. E. Shelby, Clerk.

Third. The following committees were appointed:

* On Devotion—J. G. Kuykendall, J. Hickman, with deacons of Macedonia Church.

On Order of Business—Rev. J. D. Byars, Rev. W. B. Montgomery, Rev. M. Montgomery.

On Resolutions and Querries—Rev. J. E. Mathis, Rev. T. R. Laboon, L. L. Barrett.

A partial report of committee on devotion was as follows: Rev. M. Montgomery preach at 9 a. m. Sunday; Rev. J. M. Pinkerton preach at 11 a. m.; prayer meeting at 5 p. m. Preaching at 7:30 p. m. by Rev. T. R. Laboon.

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

SUNDAY SERVICES.

Rev. M. Montgomery preached Sunday 9 a. m.; text, Romans 6:23.

Rev. J. M. Pinkerton preached at 11 a. m.; text, St. Luke 2:6.

Rev. T. R. Laboon preached at 7:30 p. m.; text, St. Luke 3:14.

Monday morning at 8 a. m. Union Meeting met pursuant to adjournment and was called to order by the Moderator. Read 142nd Psalm and prayer by Moderator.

First. Roll called and delegates answered to their names.

MONDAY MORNING, 8 O'CLOCK.

Union Meeting met pursuant to adjournment and was called to order by the Moderator. Read 142 Psalm and offered prayer.

First. Roll called and delegates answered to their names.

Second. Read minutes of Saturday and they were approved.

Third. Reports of Committees called for.

We, your committee on Documents and Order of Business, beg leave to report,

First. We recommend the usual order of business.

Second. We recommend that the next session of the Union meeting convene with Union Church, on Saturday before the Fourth Sunday in July, 1915. Rev. J. E. Mathis to preach the Introductory Sermon; Rev. J. D. Byars, alternate.

Rev. J. D. Byars, Chm.

We, your committee on Resolutions and Queries, report,

Resolved, that this body tender its sincere thanks to Macedonia Church and the good people of the community for the able manner in supporting the Union Meeting and the kindness shown us during the stay with them.

Resolved further, that we recommend the adoption of the enclosed form of letter to be used by all the churches in our Association.

Rev. J. E. Mathis, Chm.

Adjourned to meet with Union Church, on Saturday before the Fourth Sunday in July, 1915. J. E. Mathis to preach Introductory Sermon; J. D. Byars, alternate.

Rev. J. M. Pinkerton, Moderator.
J. W. E. Shelby, Clerk.

ROLL OF DELEGATES.

Mt. Moriah—R. L. Burgess.

Macedonia—L. Fields, Billie Parker, O. B. Harden.

Shiloh—Henry Burkhalter, J. A. Hickman, M. C. Montgomery.

Tabernacle—J. S. Loftis, S. F. Shelby, P. J. Frazier.

Antioch—B. D. Williams, J. T. Williams.

Union—J. S. Curry, W. W. Poole.

Phillips Chapel—J. D. Montgomery, M. J. Sanford.

Hattie's Chapel—A. J. Pridmore, J. A. St. John.

Mt. Zion—S. S. Spencer, J. W. E. Shelby, T. C. Harless.

Union Hill—W. R. Robinson, D. L. Robinson.

Pleasant Hill—R. B. Tilly, L. L. Barrett.

Unity Grove—L. E. Parker, I. P. Robinson, Roy Guin.

Pleasant Ridge—Collier Strickland, B. C. Strickland.

Sulphur Springs—J. G. Kuykendall, J. R. Hall.

CHURCH LETTER TO ASSOCIATION.

Dear Brethren: We, the Freewill Baptist Church of Christ, who worship at....., send greetings.

We met in Conference on Saturday before the.....

.....and elected delegates as follows, to-wit:

Brothers.....

whom we deem worthy to aid in the business of your honorable body.

Brethren, we are at peace. Pray for us that we may continue in the work of the Lord. We have had the faithful service of Brother

Our statistics are as follows: Baptized..... Received by
Letter..... Dismissed..... Restored..... Deceased.....
Excluded..... No. of Members.....

Meeting days are the.....
in each month.

This done in Conference and signed by order of the same this the

.....Moderator.

.....Clerk.

CONSTITUTION.

Article 1. This Association shall be known as the Mt. 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 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.

Article 3. Each church in this Association shall be considered an advisory board and shall control its own internal affairs in matters of discipline, etc., though the church may in extreme cases claim 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 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 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 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 debate is 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 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; and 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.

Article 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.

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, but 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 for admonition and exhortation. Hebrews 11:12-13; Romans 12:14; Mark 14:12; Ezekiel 18:24; Rev. 2:3; Ezekiel 33:13 and 28; 1st Tim. 4:1; Hebrews 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 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 of 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 a perpetual obligation, by which the members of the church in the use of the 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; and 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 and mixed communion and the churches of our body are authorized, 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.

Statistical Table---Mt. Moriah Free Will Baptist Association.

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