

MINUTES
OF THE
FOURTEENTH ANNUAL SESSION
OF THE
MORNING STAR F. W. B. ASSOCIATION

HELD WITH
DAVIS CHAPEL CHURCH

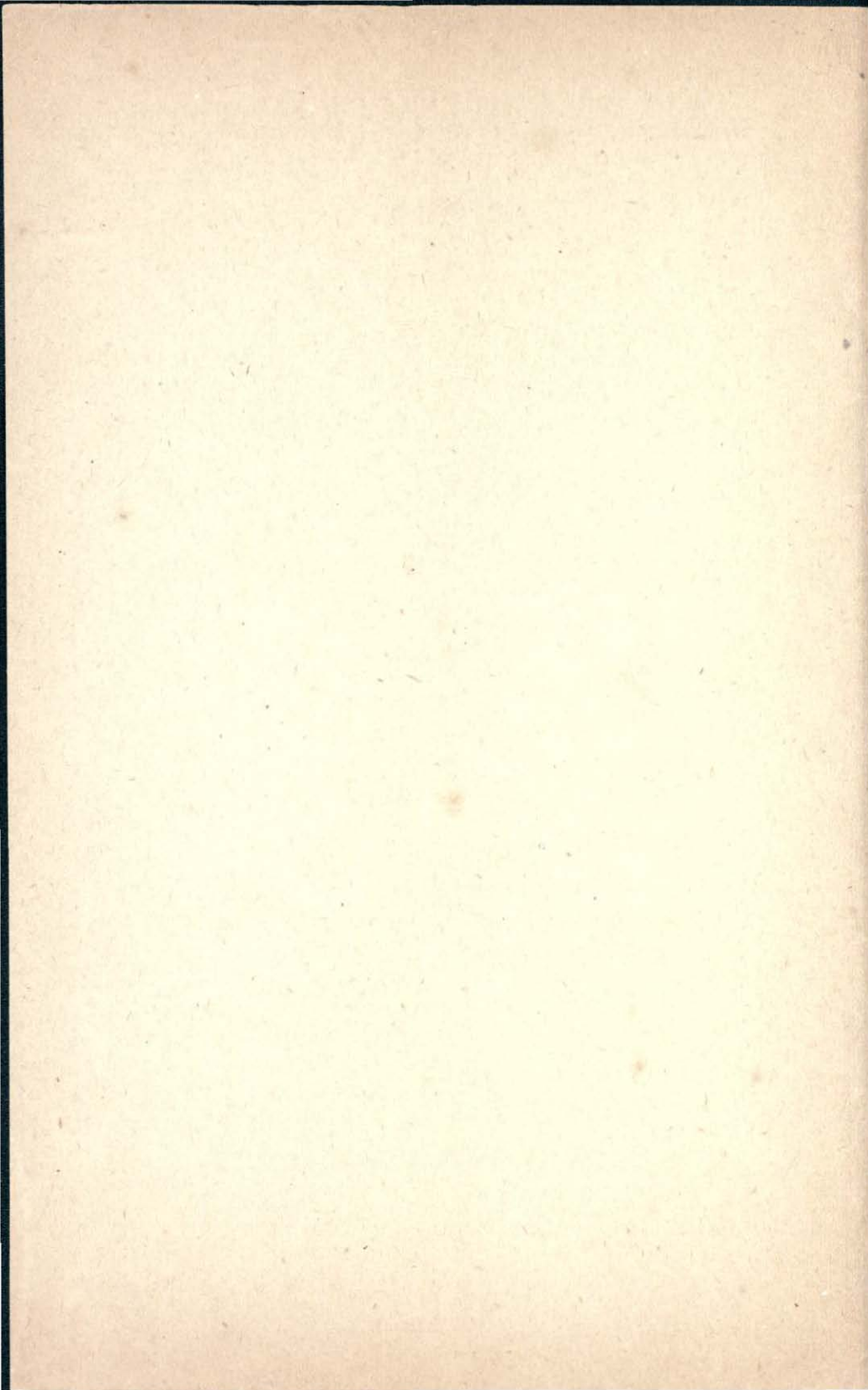
Fayette County, Ala., September 18th, 1920.

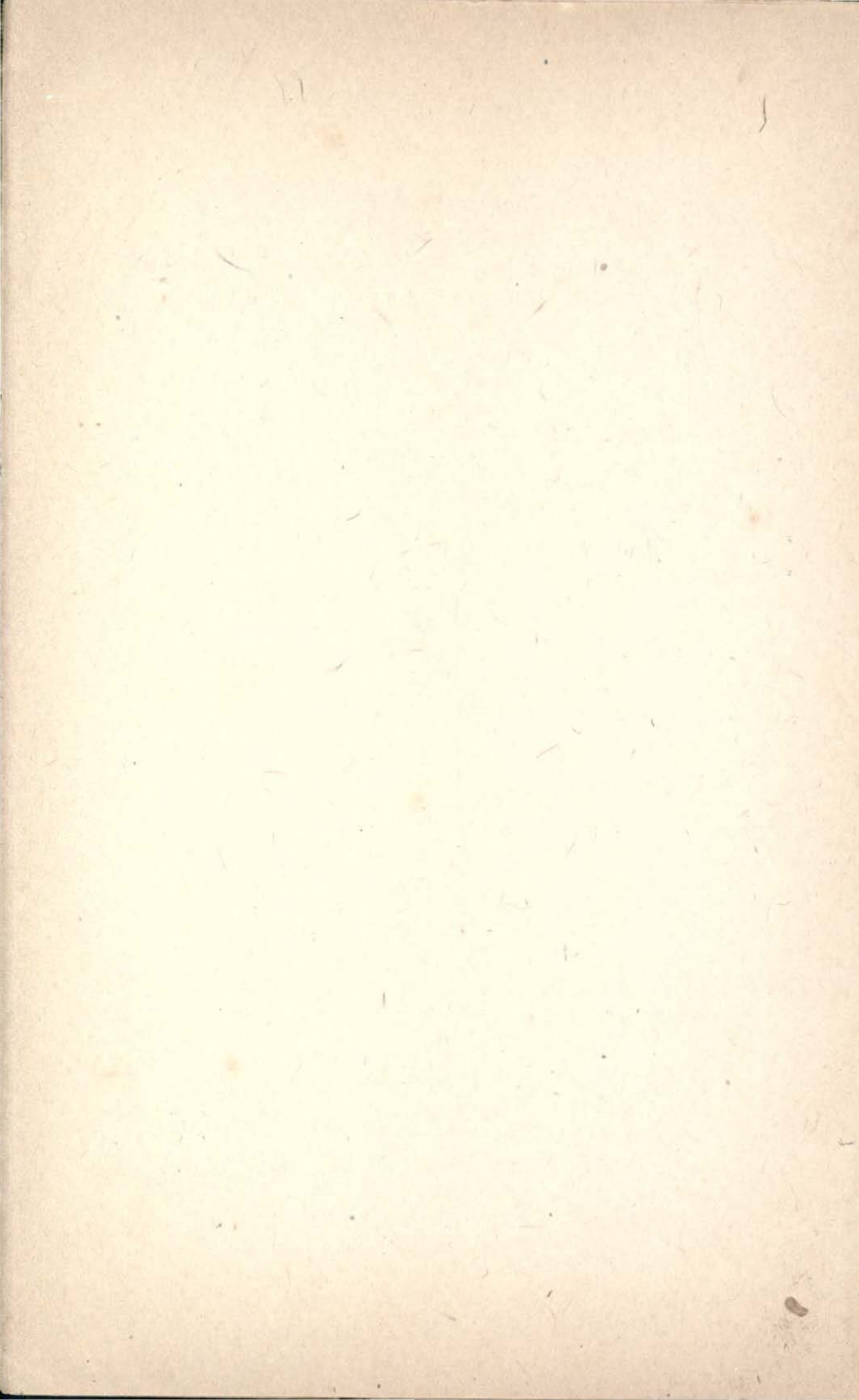
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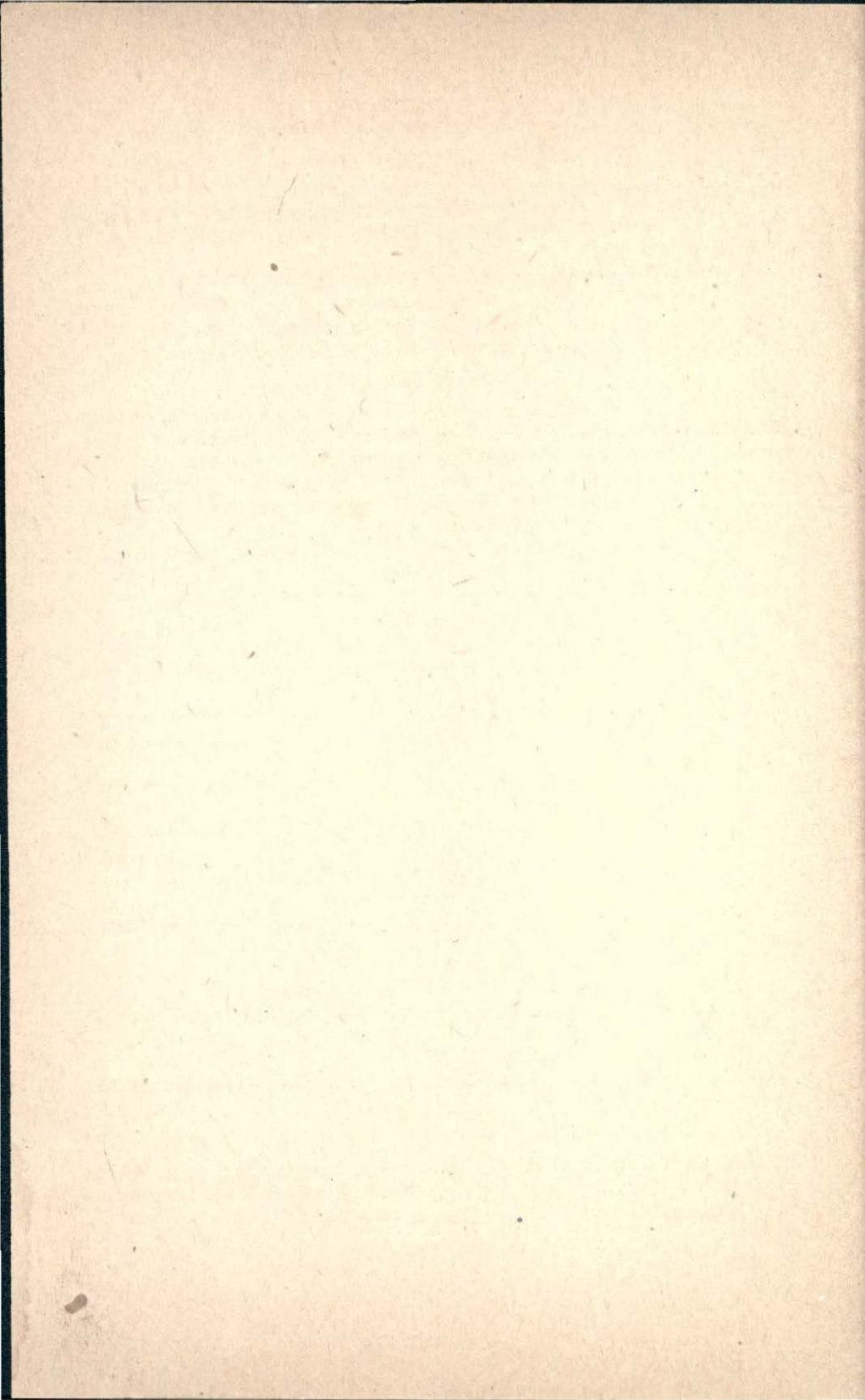
REV. J. W. MURRY, ----- Moderator.
REV. J. W. MOORE, ----- Assistant Moderator.
J. C. PIKE, ----- Clerk.

The next session of this Association will be held with White Sulphur Springs Church, Fayette county, Ala. Six miles southeast of Alta Station on the Southern Railroad, on Saturday before the third Sunday in September 1921.

AYDEN, N. C.
FREE WILL BAPTIST PRINTING CO.
1920.







PROCEEDINGS

The Fourteenth Annual Session of the Morning Star Free Will Baptist Association, met with Davis Chapel, Fayette County, Ala., September 18, 1920, at 11 o'clock.

Song service led by J. R. Morris. Prayer by Rev. W. J. Harbin. Rev. J. W. Moore who was appointed at the last session to preach the introductory sermon was present and preached an able sermon. Text: Rev. 22:15. After this there was an adjournment one hour for dinner.

EVENING SESSION.

Reassembled at 2:30 p. m. Prayer by W. I. Wade. The former moderator being absent the clerk took charge. Rev. W. J. Moore was appointed moderator, who took charge and proceeded with the business as follows:

1. Appointed Bros. W. H. Burrill and A. Knight reading clerks.
2. The roll of churches was called, letters handed in, read and contents noted, as per Statistical Table.
3. Called for petitionary letters and received letters and delegates from Benoit church and Mt. Nebo church.
4. Beech Grove church in Walker county failing to represent for two successive terms was dropped from the minutes.
5. Called for corresponding delegates from sister Associations.

Rev. J. E. Harbin of the Mount Moriah Association was enrolled as a Corresponding Messenger.

6. Motion to permanently organize. Rev. J. W. Murry was elected moderator; Rev. W. J. Moore, Assistant Moderator; Bro. J. C. Pike, Clerk.

7. The following committees were appointed:

On Preaching.—W. Herron, W. H. Beville, with the deacons of Davis Chapel church.

Documents and Order of Business.—Rev. W. L. Wade, Bro. E. G. Burt, Rev. J. A. Montgomery, with the moderator and clerk.

On Literature.—Bro. W. T. Taff, Rev. J. C. Hallman.

On Sabbath Schools.—Bros. F. M. Taff, T. B. Lowery.

Temperance.—W. I. Wade, W. J. Harbin, W. F. Beville, S. M. Banks.

Deceased Ministers.—A. M. Potts, J. R. Morris.

Finance.—T. M. Mullenax, A. Knight, J. F. D. Moore.

8. The Preaching Committee reported as follows:

Revs. J. W. Harbin, and J. W. Moore preach Saturday night; Revs. W. I. Wade and J. W. Moore Sunday at 11 o'clock.

9. Assigned delegates and ministers to homes.

Saturday night after several prayers, J. W. Moore preached an able sermon. Text: Luke 15:18.

SUNDAY MORNING, SEPT. 19.

The Association met at 10 o'clock. Song service by J. R. Morris. Prayer by Rev. G. B. Haney. At 11 o'clock Rev. W. I. Wade preached an

able sermon from Rev. 19:10. "Worship God for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy." He was followed by Rev. J. W. Moore, after which the Christians took the sacrament and washed each other's feet, and we had a great revival.

At 6:30 o'clock, Rev. J. W. Moore, Rev. W. I. Wade, Rev. W. J. Murry, Rev. J. E. Harbin, and deacons W. G. L. Moore and A. Knight ordained Bro. T. M. Mullinax to preach the Gospel of Christ. After which Rev. J. E. Harbin preached an able sermon. Text: 2 Cor. 5:1. This closed our Sabbath day's service.

MONDAY MORNING, SEPT. 20.

The Association met pursuant to adjournment. At 8 o'clock, the assistant moderator, Rev. J. W. Moore read the 116th division of the Psalms and offered prayer. The clerk called the roll, and a quorum being present, the Association was declared ready for business.

1. Saturday's proceedings were read and adopted.
2. The Constitution and rules of decorum was read by the clerk.
3. Called for the reports of the committees which were read, discussed and adopted as follows:

(1) Documents and Order of Business.

We, your committee submit the following report:

1. We recommend that Sulphur Springs church have the next Association. We also recommend that Rev. J. W. Murry preach the introductory sermon, and that Rev. A. M. Potts be his alternate. We further recommend that the clerk superintend the printing of the minutes, and that he distribute them according to the contributions received from the various churches, and that he be allowed \$7.50 for his services. We also recommend that the churches send in larger minute funds, and also that they take better care of their pastors, and that they make a complete report at the next Association of their church expenses, especially the amounts they pay pastors.

REV. W. I. WADE, Ch'm.

The report was received and the committee discharged.

Literature.

We, your committee report as follows:

We recommend that we use our own denominational literature, and that we patronize our own printing houses for all printing purposes.

W. P. TAFF, Ch'm.

The report was received and the committee discharged.

Sunday Schools.

We, your committee report as follows:

We recommend that all the churches in this Association organize and maintain a Sunday School. We further urge that the pastors urge this upon their churches; for the Bible teaches us that we should train our chil-

dren in the way that they should go. We also believe that the Sunday school is good for the old as well as the young.

F. M. TAFF, Ch'm.

The report was received and the committee discharged.

Temperance.

We, your committee on Temperance submit the following report:

We recommend that all our people be temperate and self controlling, and that they do not participate in sin and ungodliness, and that they abstain from all intoxicating drinks. We urge that the deacons and ministers in all our churches urge that the brethren and sisters be temperate in all things.

W. I. WADE, Ch'm.

The report was received and the committee discharged.

Deceased Members.

We, your committee on Deceased Members report as follows:

Since our last Association death has visited the following churches, and claimed for its victims the following:

Davis Chapel Church.—Bro. Willie Moore, age about 50 years; Sister Lula Morris, aged about 38 years; Sister Lizzie Odum aged about 65 years. Beulah Church.—Sister V. A. Milwood, aged 63 years.

A. M. POTTS, Ch'm.

Finance.

We, your committee on Finance report as follows:

We find paid in by the various churches:

Minute funds -----	\$34.85
Balance from last session -----	2.37
Contributed by the delegates -----	5.43
Total -----	\$42.65

T. M. MULLENAX, Ch'm.

The report was received and the committee discharged.

Resolutions Offered and Adopted.

1. That we still retain our former articles of faith.
2. That our church pastors get and acquaint themselves with the articles of faith and treatise of the General Co-operative Association published at Tecumseh, Okla, for the purpose of adoption at the next session of the Association, and that they instruct the delegates from their churches how to vote on same.
3. That the ministers, delegates and visitors tender their most sincere thanks to Davis Chapel church and the entire community for the kindness shown them and bless them both temporally and spiritually, and at last save you all in heaven.

At 11 o'clock Revs. J. A. Montgomery and J. E. Harbin preached soul stirring sermons. Text: Rev. 18:23. After which a song was sung and the

parting hand was taken, amidst shouts of joy and praise to God. After this dinner was served, and after everybody had feasted on the good the ministers and delegates departed for their homes, to meet with Sulphur Springs church, Saturday before the third Sunday in September, 1921.

REV. J. W. MURRY, Moderator.

REV. J. W. MOORE, Assistant Moderator.

J. C. PIKE, Clerk.

NAMES OF CHURCHES AND DELEGATES.

Union Valley.—W. H. Bevill, E. G. Burt.

Friendship.—A. Knight, J. O. Banks.

New Bethlehem.—W. P. and F. M. Taff.

New Liberty.—Sam Fowler, P. B. Lowery, Andrew Moore.

Sulphur Springs.—J. W. Bonner, T. M. Mullenax.

Davis Chapel.—Sisters Sallie Moore, Selie Savage, J. R. Morris.

Pleasant Grove.—S. N. Banks, F. A. Banks, J. B. Banks.

Benoit.—W. and John Herron.

Mount Nebo.—J. T. Smith, D. R. Smith, D. A. C. Smith.

STATISTICS

Union Valley, Walker County.—Received by letter 2, by baptism 6, by confession 2, dismissed by letter 6, excluded 1, total 83, minute fund \$5.25. Rev. E. M. Stamps, pastor, West Blocton, Ala. Church Clerk, J. C. Pike, Townley, Ala. Days of meeting, 2nd and fourth Saturdays and Sundays.

Friendship Church, Walker County, Ala.—Total membership 38, minute fund \$2.00. Rev. T. M. Mullenax, Pastor, Oakmon, Ala., Route 3. Church Clerk, W. B. Banks, Oakman, Ala., route 3.

Davis Chapel Church, Fayette County, Ala.—Number members 108, minute fund \$5.00, died, Sisters Lizzie Odum, Lula Morris, aged 38, Bro. Willie Moore, aged 50 years. Pastor, J. W. Moore, Sipsie, Ala. Church clerk, J. H. Moore, Berry, Ala., Route 1.

Beulah Church, Walker, Ala.—Number of members 20, died, Sister V. A. Milwood, aged 63 years. Minute funds \$2.10. Pastor, A. J. Robbards, Carbon Hill, Ala., route 4. Clerk, J. H. Milwood, Carbon Hill, Ala., route 4.

New Bethlehem, Walker County, Ala.—By confession 2, number members 21, minute fund \$3.00. Ordained ministers, Rev. J. A. Montgomery, Wyatt, Ala., J. N. Bennett, Cordova, Ala. Meeting days 4th Saturdays and Sundays. Pastor, Rev. W. I. Wade, Oakman, Ala., route 3. Church Clerk, F. M. Taff, Dora, Ala.

New Liberty Church, Fayette County, Ala.—Received by baptism 3, restored 2, dismissed by letter 3, minute funds \$3.50, number members 96. Pastor, Rev. W. E. Harbin, Samantha, Ala., Route 1. Clerk, S. L. Fowler, Bankston, Ala., Route 1. Meeting days first Saturdays and Sundays.

Sulphur Springs Church, Fayette County, Ala.—By baptism 1, confession 2, number members 14, minute funds \$1.50. Meeting days, third Saturdays and Sundays. Ordained ministers, J. W. Bonner, Carona, Ala.

Route 2. Pastor, Rev. W. I. Wade, Oakman, Ala., route 1. Clerk, Ella Handley, Carona, Ala., route 2.

Pleasant Grove Church, Walker County, Ala.—Received by baptism 5, confession 6, total members 38, minute funds \$5.00. Pastor, Rev. W. J. Moore, Sipsie, Ala. Assistant pastor, Rev. W. J. Murry, Sipsie, Ala. Clerk, S. M. Banks, Jasper, Ala., route 1.

Mt. Nebo Church, Fayette County, Ala.—Organized with 12 members, minute funds \$2.00. Meeting days second Saturdays and Sundays. Pastor, Rev. E. R. Price, Vernon, Ala., route 4. Clerk, C. A. Williams, Berry, Ala., route 3.

Benoit Church, Walker County, Ala.—Organized with 37 members. Ordained ministers, Rev. J. C. Hallman, Cardova, Ala. Minute funds \$5.00. Pastor, Rev. J. W. Moore. Clerk, Fred Grubbs, Benoit, Ala.

New Oak Grove Church, Walker County, Ala.

Willis Chapel Church, Walker County, Ala.

Carbon Hill Church, Walker County.

Above three churches not represented.

CHURCH COVENANT.

Having been brought as we humbly trust by divine grace to embrace the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior and having obtained justification by faith in His name, we, as members of the Free Will Baptist Church at-----agree.

1st. To watch over each other in love, to pray for each other as members of a common faith, ever striving to keep the unity of the spirit in bonds of peace.

2nd. We will not speak evil, one of another, nor will we prosecute or expose the faults of the weak members of our church, but we will endeavor to be governed by Paul's instruction to Timothy, that we will reprove, rebuke and exhort each other as members of a common brotherhood.

3rd. We are commanded to do good unto all men, especially to those who are of the household of faith, but we should remember that our relations to each other are closer and the obligations more binding than that of a common bond of Christian charity. In adopting this covenant we become as a family, and assume in a Christian sense the care and responsibility that the members of a family should feel for each other.

4. We will attend the stated meetings of our church unless we are providentially hindered or uncontrollable circumstances prevent us. And we will contribute of our means as the Lord has prospered us for the support of our pastor and other necessary expenses of our church, and we will prefer the service of our own church to that of any other, and will pray for our pastor while he is preaching the Word to us.

5th. We will not injure our influence in the house of the Lord by occupying seats among the ungodly and sinners, but will occupy seats near the pulpit and use the natural power which the Lord has given us to praise His Holy Name. We will sing with those who sing, and pray with those who pray.

6th. We will not be guilty of the sin of Sabbath breaking by making Sunday visits to our neighbors, which is a double sin against the law of God, for in so doing we fail to attend the house of the Lord and hinder others who might wish to do so. Let us remember the law of Moses which condemns Sabbath breaking and the word of the inspired Apostle which says, "Forsake not the assembling of yourselves together as the manner of some is."

7th. We will not neglect the secret and public prayers and those of us who are heads of families will strive to dedicate our household to the service of God by teaching our children the great necessity of the Christian religion as the only hope of happiness after death. We will adopt the covenant of Joshua, the servant of the Lord, and say, "But as for me and my house we will serve the Lord."

FORM OF CHURCH CONFERENCE.

The State of Alabama, _____ county, _____ day of _____ 192__ After divine service by Rev. _____ church met in Conference:

1. Call for peace and fellowship of the church.
2. Invited visiting brothers to seats with us.
3. Reading minutes of last Conference.
4. Extending invitations for members.
5. Called for acknowledgements.
6. Is the pastor faithful in the discharge of his ministerial duties?
7. Are the officers of the church faithful in the discharge of their duties?
8. Is there any brother or sister sick or in distress?
9. Call for general business.

Done by order of the church in Conference on the _____ day of _____, 192__

Rev. _____ Moderator.
_____ Church Clerk.

FORM OF LETTER OF DISMISSAL.

This is to certify that Bro. _____ is a member of the Free Will Baptist Church at _____ and as such we recommend him to the fellowship of all good people.

Done by order of the church in Conference on the _____ day of _____, 192__

Rev. _____ Moderator.
_____ Church Clerk.

CONSTITUTION.

Article 1. This Association shall be known as the Morning Star Free Will Baptist Association of Alabama, being 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 the churches.

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. It may, however, in extreme case, call aid from sister churches.

Art. 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.

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

Art. 6. This Association shall meet annually, at such time and place as may be agreed at a previous annual session, and shall not adjourn finally until all business is transacted.

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

Art. 8. We agree as churches of this Association to use our best influence to promote the interests of all moral and benevolent institutions, such as the temperance cause, Sabbath Schools, missionary work, etc.

Art. 9. No member of this Association shall be eligible to the office of Moderator more than two successive sessions, unless no other member be competent to act in that capacity.

Art. 10. Any church failing to send representatives for two years in succession, its name shall be dropped from our minutes.

RULES OF DECORUM.

Article 1. This 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.

Art. 2. The Association shall be opened and closed by singing and prayer.

Art. 3. The Moderator and Clerk shall be chosen by ballot at each session of the Association. A majority of votes by delegates present elects.

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

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

Art. 6. The Moderator shall not be entitled to vote except in cases of a tie, and then he shall give the deciding vote. He shall be entitled to speak on all questions after others have spoken, providing he appoints some one to the chair while he is speaking.

Art. 7. Only one person shall speak at a time and he shall rise and address the Moderator, and after recognition by the Moderator he shall proceed.

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

Art. 9. No person shall be allowed to speak more than twice on the

same subject without leave of the Association, nor more than 15 minutes at a time.

Art. 10. No member shall laugh or talk while debates are going on.

Art. 11. No member shall absent himself from the Association without leave of the Moderator.

ARTICLES OF FAITH.

Article 1. We believe there is one and but one living and true God, who is in personality the Father, Son and Holy Ghost, equal and harmonious in every divine perfection. "For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus."—I Tim. 2:5.

Article 2. We believe that God is the author of the Holy Bible, and that its teachings constitute the only infallible doctrine for the government of His church. "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness."—2 Tim. 3:16.

Article 3. We believe that Adam was created holy but by voluntary transgression fell into depravity, and consequently involved his posterity in sin. "And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food and pleasant to the eye, and a trace to be desired to make one wise, she took the fruits thereof and did eat and gave them unto her husband with her, and he did eat."—Gen. 3:6.

Article 4. We believe that the grace of God comprehended all spiritual blessings, that the gospel is the power of God unto salvation, that the Holy Spirit not only reproves the world of sin, but is the means whereby sinners are converted and made wise unto salvation. "For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon Him."—Romans 10:12.

Article 5. We believe that Christian faith is belief in Jesus Christ as the Son of God and Redeemer of the world, and in the divinity of the holy scriptures that faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life, and he that believeth not on the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abideth on him."—John 6:36.

Article 6. We believe that repentance is sorrow for sin, and the kind of sorrow which constitutes Godly repentance must be preceded by effectual conviction for sin. "For Godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of, but the sorrow of the world worketh death."—2 Cor. 7:10.

Article 7. We believe that the human will is free, and that it has ability to accept or reject the conditions of salvation as they are revealed in the holy scriptures. "He hath shown thee, oh man, what is good, and what doth the Lord require of thee but to do justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with thy God."—Michael 6:8.

Article 8. We do not believe under the gospel dispensation that any soul is elected to eternal life unconditionally, but that those who by faith persevere to the end will be saved; that it is possible for men who have been converted to make shipwrecks of their faith, turn again to sin, and be finally

lost. "And Jesus said unto him, no man having put his hand to the plow looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."—Luke 9:62.

Article 9. We believe that good works is the result of faith and that those who have faith will do works of righteousness, while those who have no faith cannot do anything pleasing or acceptable to God. "Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down and cast into the fire."—Matthew 7:19.

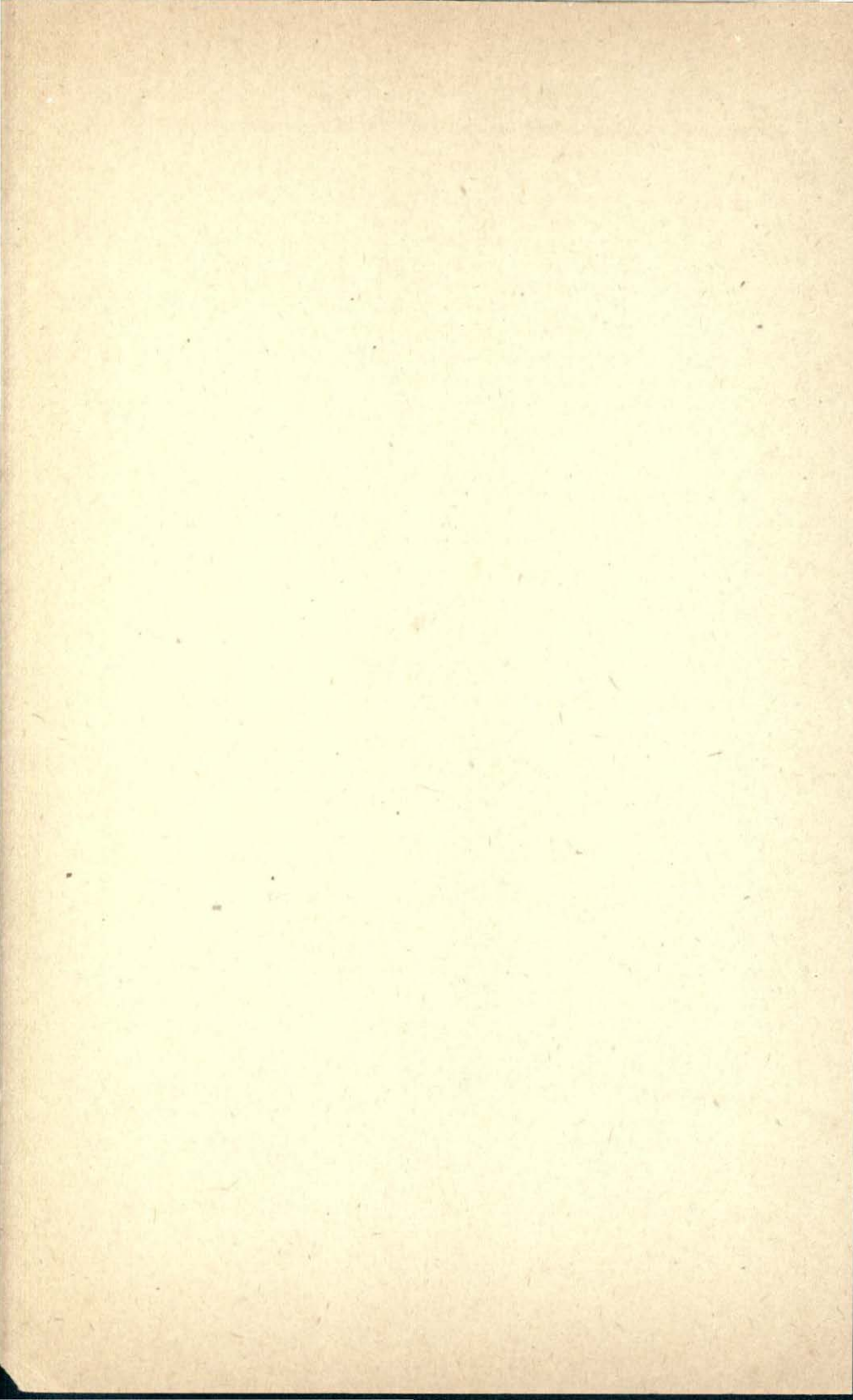
Article 10. We believe that Christian baptism is the immersion in water of a believer in the names of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost; that baptism cannot be scripturally administered without faith in the subject who receives it. "Therefore we were buried with Him in baptism into death that like as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in the newness of life."—Romans 6:4.

Article 11. We believe the Lord's Supper was instituted by our Savior as a commemorative ordinance, that the bread and wine represent His body and blood, that it was instituted for Christians, and that all Christians should unite in observing the sacred service, regardless of the names or denominational distinction. "But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread and drink that cup. For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body."—I Cor. 11:28-29.

We believe it is the duty of the disciples of Jesus Christ to wash each other's feet. "If I then, your Lord and Master have washed your feet, ye also ought to wash one another's feet."—John 13:14.

Article 12. We believe that man is a living soul, that the body will die, but that the soul is immortal; that death is the separation of the mortal and immortal parts of human beings. "And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and man became a living soul."—Gen. 2:7.

Article 13. We believe in the resurrection of the dead. When the resurrection shall take place the soul and body will reunite and form an immortal being; that the righteous will be received into a state of everlasting happiness to reign with God forever and ever, but the wicked will be bound hand and foot and cast into outer darkness. The wicked are driven away in their wickedness, but the righteous have hope in their death. "Marvel not at this for the hour is coming in which all that are in the grave shall hear His voice, and shall come forth, they that have done good unto the resurrection of life, and they that have done evil unto the resurrection of damnation."—John 5:28-29.



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