

**North Alabama  
Association  
of  
Free Will Baptist**



**MINUTES 1966**

MINUTES  
OF THE  
FIRST SESSION  
OF THE  
NORTH ALABAMA ASSOCIATION  
OF FREE WILL BAPTIST  
WHEN CONVENED WITH  
MAPLE GROVE FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH  
MADISON, ALABAMA  
OCTOBER 29, 1966  
OFFICERS — 1966-67

MODERATOR ..... REV. R. P. RITCH  
Madison, Alabama

ASSISTANT MODERATOR ..... REV. BILLY SHARPSTON  
Route 3, Box 71A, Hartselle, Ala.

CLERK-TREASURER ..... MR. PAUL JONES  
Route 2, Falkville, Alabama 35622

The next session of this association will convene with the Pleasant Hill Free Will Baptist Church in Blunt County, five miles east of Hanceville, Alabama on Saturday October 7, 1967.

## ORDAINED MINISTERS

Rev. Ronnie Blanks  
3302 9th. Ave. S.W.  
Huntsville, Ala. 35805

Rev. F. L. Thomas  
Route 1  
Cullman, Ala. 35055

Rev. R. P. Ritch  
P.O. Box 113  
Madison, Ala. 35758

Rev. Billy Sharpston  
Route 3, Box 71A  
Hartselle, Ala. 35640

Rev. Julian L. Parsons  
1303 16th. Ave. S.E.  
Decatur, Ala. 35601

Rev. Richard Wayne (Billy) Bowers  
217 37th Ave. North Nashville, Tenn. 37200  
Student FWB Bible College

## ORDAINED DEACONS

CEDAR CREEK—Albert L. Henry; Willie B. Foote; Thomas (Bud) Hill; Paul M. Jones; Luther F. Holmes.

MAPLE GROVE—V. G. Lowery; Walter Lowery

PLEASANT HILL—Clovis Starnes

LAODICEA—Lee Headrick

ROCKET CITY—Bobby J. Sargent; Paul E. McCray

## DELEGATES

ROCKET CITY—James Hartley; Harry Brawshaw; Sis. Harry Bradshaw; Sis. McCray; Sis. Ryland

LAODICEA—Sis. Leola Alexander; Sis. Verla Boren; Sis. Julian Parsons; Sis. Gail Shugart.

MAPLE GROVE—Sis. Mary Lowery; Bro. Walter Craig; Sis. Alice Parker; Sis. Mary Hagood; Sis. Sandra Hagood.

PLEASANT HILL—Sis. Marie Ballard; Sis. Fay Nell Starnes; Bro. Tom Meade

CEDAR CREEK—Sis. Ethel Henry; Sis. Dovie Lindley; Sis. Deborah Jones; Sis. Patty Austin; Bro. Robert M. Austin.



## **CHURCH — PASTOR — CLERK**

**CEDAR CREEK**—Pastor—Rev. Billy Sharpston, Route 3, Box 71A, Hartselle, Ala.,  
35640. Clerk—Robert L. Brewer, Route 3, Hartselle, Ala. 35640.

**MAPLE GROVE** — Pastor—Rev. R. P. Ritch, P.O. Box 113, Madison, Ala. 35768  
Clerk—Sis. Herman Hagood, Route 1, Madison, Ala. 35758.

**PLEASANT HILL**—Pastor—Rev. F. L. Thomas, Route 1, Cullman, Ala. 35055. Clerk—  
Bennie Moore, 1629C 26th St., N. Birmingham, Ala.

**ROCKET CITY**—Pastor—Rev. Ronnie Blanks, 3302 9th. Ave. S.W., Huntsville, Ala.  
35805, Clerk—Bobby J. Sargent, 3103 Brook Manor N.W., Huntsville, Ala.  
35805

**LAODICEA** — Pastor—Rev. Julian L. Parsons, 1303 16th. Ave. S.E., Decatur, Ala.  
35601, Clerk—Sis. Annie Shugart, Route 2, Hanceville, Ala.

## **CONSTITUTION OF THE NORTH ALABAMA ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTIST**

### **ARTICLE I**

This body shall be known as the North Alabama Association of Free Will Baptist.

### **ARTICLE II**

This Association shall be composed of Ministers, deacons, clerks, and delegates from the different churches forming the same. All having full power to vote on all questions which come before the association. Each church being entitled to five (5) delegates. With a representative fee of \$15.00 from each church.

### **ARTICLE III**

This body adopts the Treatise of Faith and Practice of The National Association of Free Will Baptist.

### **ARTICLE IV**

This body shall be composed of churches of the above named association together with like bodies of same faith and practice which may be hereafter admitted.

### **ARTICLE V**

The officers of this association shall be a Moderator, Assistant Moderator, Clerk-treasurer, who shall be chosen by the nomination and majority of votes at the end of each session. Officers thus elected shall hold their positions until their successors are elected. The Moderator and Assistant Moderator shall not serve more than two consecutive terms.

## ARTICLE VI

Section 1. It is understood that the North Alabama Association of Free Will Baptist have no judical authority over any local church.

Section. 2. The North Alabama Association of Free Will Baptist, and its member local churches do not grant any judical authority to any representative body to which they may belong.

## ARTICLE VII

There shall be an ordaining council elected by the association to inquire into and examine each applicant for ordination to preach the Gospel of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and make recommendation to the association for the ordination of said applicant. This council shall be composed of five (5) ordained men.

## ARTICLE VIII

This association shall meet annually on Saturday before the second Sunday in October, at the place agreed on at the previous session.

## ARTICLE IX

Section 1. When a church desires that one of its members should be licensed or ordained to preach the Gospel, it requests the association to examine, by council, such member. The examination for license should refer to the piety, doctrine and convictions respecting the work of the ministry, and the reputation for character and ability of the candidate.

Section 2. The examination for ordination should include all that is required for license, and also satisfactory examination respecting the life and labors of the candidate.

Section 3. No preacher shall be accepted or ordained in this association as a preacher who has more than one living wife.

## ARTICLE X

This constitution may be amended at any regular session of the association by a two-thirds vote of the members present, provided the change is recommended in writing and tabled in the morning session and voted on during the afternoon session.

## PROCEEDINGS

The first annual session of the North Alabama Association of Free Will Baptist convened with the Maple Grove Free Will Baptist Church, Madison, Alabama on October 29, 1966, with the Moderator, Rev. R. P. Ritch presiding.

The session was opened by singing led by Bro. R. P. Ritch, prayer was by Bro. Billy Sharpston.

Moved by Bro. Sharpston and seconded by Harry Bradshaw that we have a business session to elect officers for the association, those elected were: Moderator—Rev. R. P. Ritch; Ass't. Moderator—Rev. Billy Sharpston; Clerk-treasurer—Paul Jones.

Congregation singing under the direction of Bro. Julian Parsons, devotion was given by Bro. James Hartly, using as his scripture Acts 17:23.

Morning messsage was delivered by Bro. Billy Sharpston scripture basis for his message, 1 chapter of John 18th verse and Gal. 4:4.

## AFTERNOON SESSION

After a wonderful lunch, served by the host church, the association reassembled at 1:00 p.m. After song by the congregation and prayer by Bro. Robert M. Austin.

The business for the afternoon was reading the Constitution and By-Laws which were approved by the delegated body.

Delegates elected to represent us in the State Association, those elected were: Sis. Mary Ritch; Sis. Inez Jones; Sis. Ethel Henry; Sis. Dovie Lindley and Bro. Harry Bradshaw.

The next session of the North Alabama Association of Free Will Baptist will be held with the Pleasant Hill Free Will Baptist Church of Blountsville, Ala. on Saturday October 7, 1967.



**BY-LAWS OF THE NORTH ALABAMA ASSOCIATION  
OF FREE WILL BAPTIST**

Section 1. The Moderator, assistant moderator, or in their absence, the senior minister in years shall call the association to order.

Section 2. No person shall be allowed to speak more than two times on any one subject, or more than five (5) minutes without the permission of the moderator.

Section 3. A Credential committee shall be appointed at the beginning of each session who shall receive and examine the letters, and list the delegates and turn them over to the clerk with any recommendations they may wish to make, and omit the public reading of the letters.

Section 4. The Moderator shall have the right to appoint all committees.

Section 5. No person shall be ordained to the ministry nor shall the credentials of any minister be ratified until he is qualified to meet the conditions stated in the third chapter of (I Timothy), "The husband of one wife."

Section 6. The business of this association shall be governed by Roberts Rules of Order.

Section 7. No person shall be interrupted while speaking unless he departs from the subject under discussion or use words of personal reflection.

Section 8. Only one person shall be allowed to speak at one time and he shall arise and address the Moderator. In case two arise at the same time, the first seen by the Moderator shall be allowed to speak.

Section 9. No person should absent himself from the association without permission of the Moderator.

Section 10. This association shall issue annually, cards of good standing to its ministers and deacons.

Section 11. This association shall in all cases in the transaction of all business brought before it, be governed by a majority of all delegates present. And any church or delegate failing or refusing to vote, is and shall be considered a party to the enforcement of same.

Section 12. These by-laws may be altered or amended at any regular session of this association by two-thirds vote of the members present.