

**North Alabama  
Association  
of  
Free Will Baptist**



**MINUTES 1968**

MINUTES  
Of The  
THIRD SESSION  
Of The  
**NORTH ALABAMA ASSOCIATION  
OF FREE WILL BAPTIST**

When Convened With  
Laodicea Free Will Baptist Church  
Hanceville, Alabama  
October 12, 1968

OFFICERS — 1968-69

MODERATOR ..... Rev. Billy Sharpston  
Route 3, Box 71A, Hartselle, Alabama 35640  
ASSISTANT MODERATOR ..... Rev. F. L. Thomas  
Route 1, Cullman, Alabama  
CLERK-TREASURER ..... Mr. Paul M. Jones  
Route 2, Box 8, Falkville, Alabama 35622

The next session of this Association will convene with the Cedar Creek Free Will Baptist Church, one mile south of Hartselle, Alabama on Saturday October 11, 1969.



## PROCEEDINGS

The third session of the North Alabama Association of Free Will Baptist convened with Laodicea Free Will Baptist Church, Hanceville, Alabama on October 12, 1968.

The session was opened with congregational singing led by Rev. R. P. Ritch. Rev. E. B. Ledlow gave a wonderful devotion from St. John 14:1-3, Revelation 21:1-6, 10-23, prayer by Rev. Ledlow.

The welcome was given by Rev. Julian L. Parsons.

## BUSINESS

Credentials Committee was appointed by Moderator, they were: Rev. Julian Parsons, Bro. Albert Henry, Bro. V. G. Lowery. After the committee's report, the delegates were seated.

Moved by Rev. F. L. Thomas, and seconded by Bro. Lee Headrick, that a constitutional change be made as follows, to be added to Article 9 Section 4—No one shall be ordained as a deacon until he is put on trial by his church for a year.

Moved by Rev. F. L. Thomas, and seconded by Miss Marlyn Atkins, that a change be made in the by-laws, adding to Section 5 of by-laws as follows: "and has satisfactorily answered all the oral and or written questions put to him by the ordaining council.

Moved by Bro. Clovis Starns, seconded by Rev. F. L. Thomas, that these changes be tabled until the afternoon business session.

Rev. E. B. Ledlow presented to the Association a program to put a full time promotional man on the field in the state of Alabama. He also explained the duties of this man. After some discussion the moderator entertained a motion that this Association would help put a full time promotional man on the field. Motion by Rev. R. P. Ritch, seconded by Rev. F. L. Thomas, that we adopt the Promotional Plan, and instruct our delegates to the State Association to vote for it. This was also tabled until the afternoon business session.

After a short intermission there was congregational singing led by Rev. R. P. Ritch, and special singing by the Atkins Family. The morning message by Rev. Merritt Floyd, I. Cor. 9:27, Hebrews 2:1.

After a wonderful lunch served by the host church, the Association reassembled at 1:00 P.M. Congregational singing led by Rev. R. P. Ritch.

Devotion and Prayer by Rev. F. L. Thomas.

## BUSINESS:

The business that was tabled in the morning session was voted on and carried 100%.

Motion by Rev. Ritch that a business and obituary committee be set up and become active next year. This committee to be appointed next year at the Association. Seconded by Lee Headrick. Carried.

Delegates to the State Association are: Bro. Marion Atkins, Sis. Winnie Atkins, Sis. Marlyn Atkins, Sis. Helen Lowery, Sis. Myrna Montgomery.

The 1968-69 Officers are: Moderator — Rev. Billy Sharpston; Ass't Moderator — Rev. F. L. Thomas; Clerk-Treasurer — Paul Jones.

Motion by Rev. Parsons, Seconded by Bro. Atkins that the Association contribute \$50.00 to the E. B. Ledlow account in Decatur. There was an offering received for the Ledlow account of \$27.67.

North Alabama Quarterly Conference will meet as follows:

Rocket City—December 28, 1968  
Cedar Creek—March 29, 1969  
Pleasant Hill—June 28, 1969  
Maple Grove—November 29, 1969

## TREASURER'S REPORT

Money in Bank Oct. 1, 1968. \$ 58.07

Money deposited Oct. 19, 1968 137.67

TOTAL: \$195.74

Money Spent—

State Association Fees \$ 25.00

Home Missions - E. B. Ledlow  
Decatur Account 77.67

Printing of Minutes 26.04

TOTAL \$128.71

Balance in bank Dec. 1, 1968 \$ 67.03



CHURCH	PASTOR	CLERK
Cedar Creek	Rev. Billy Sharpston Route 3, Box 71A Hartselle, Ala. 35640	Mrs. Bob Ramey Route 3 Hartselle, Ala. 35640
Maple Grove	Rev. R. P. Ritch P.O. Box 113 Madison, Ala. 35758	Mrs. Myrna Montgomery Route 2 Madison, Ala. 35758
Pleasant Hill	Rev. Gerald Wilson Route 2 Blountsville, Ala.	Binnie Moore Route 2 Blountsville, Ala.
Rocket City	Rev. Merritt Floyd 3109 Patrick Dr. Huntsville, Ala. 35810	Carter Roberson
Laodicea	Rev. F. L. Thomas Route 2 Cullman, Ala. 35055	Winnie Atkins Route 1, Box 298C Hanceville, Ala. 35077

#### ORDAINED MINISTERS

Rev. F. L. Thomas Route 1 Cullman, Ala. 35055	Rev. Billy Sharpston Route 3, Box 71A Hartselle, Ala. 35640
Rev. R. P. Ritch P.O. Box 113 Madison, Ala. 35758	Rev. Julian L. Parson 1303 16th Ave. SE Decatur, Ala. 35601
Rev. Gerald Wilson Route 2 Blountsville, Ala.	Rev. Merritt Floyd 3109 Patrick Dr. Huntsville, Ala.

#### ORDAINED DEACONS

CEDAR CREEK—Albert Henry, Willie B. Foote, Thomas Hill, Paul Jones, Luther Holmes.

MAPLE GROVE—V. G. Lowery, Walter Lowery.

PLEASANT HILL—Clovis Starns, Herbert Couch, Ruff Puttman.

LAODICEA—Lee Headrick.

ROCKET CITY—Charles Ryland.

## 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 representation 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 judicial authority over any local church.

Section 2. The North Alabama Association of Free Will Baptist, and its member local churches do not grant any judicial 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 Saviour 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

The 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.

Section 4. No one shall be ordained as a deacon until he is put on trial by his church for one year.

## 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.

## 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." He must satisfactorily answer all the oral and/or written questions put to him by the ordaining council.

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 depart 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 shall 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.