



**NORTH ALABAMA
ASSOCIATION
OF
FREE WILL BAPTISTS**

MINUTES 1976

MINUTES
OF THE
NORTH ALABAMA ASSOCIATION OF
FREE WILL BAPTISTS
WHEN CONVENED IN
Cullman, Alabama
At the

NORTH ALABAMA
ASSOCIATION
OF
FREE WILL BAPTISTS

MODERATOR, . . . Rev. Robert L. Terry
ASSISTANT MODERATOR, . . . Rev. Tom H. Hester
CLERK-TREASURER, . . . Rev. Harold L. Gault
ACCOMMODATIONS, . . . Rev. L. B. Hester

* The 1977 session of the association will convene with First Free Will Baptist Church, Cullman, Alabama on January, 1978.

MINUTES AND REPORTS

The devoted session of the North Alabama Association of Free Will Baptists met with the First Free Will Baptist Church at Cullman, Alabama.
The state ministers and deacons assembled and Friday night the session closed with a song and prayer led by Rev. Tom Hester. The opening song was "When the Lord's Called us to Meet", sung by Rev. Tom Hester.
The meeting was called to order by the Moderator, Rev. Tom Hester. Rev. Hester also gave the welcome.
There were eleven Ministers and ten Deacons present who were met and welcomed. There were visitors from the First Free Will Baptist Church, Jasper, Alabama and First Free Will Baptist Church, Cullman, Alabama.
Rev. Tom Hester brought the Devotion which was the first chapter of the book of Isaiah and then the 10th chapter.
The church song brought the session to a close with the 10th chapter of the book of Isaiah.
The session of officers was held with the following being elected:
MODERATOR - Rev. Tom Hester
CLERK-TREASURER - Rev. Harold L. Gault
Visitors were welcomed and served by the church.
Rev. Tom Hester was the closing prayer.

MINUTES
OF THE
NORTH ALABAMA ASSOCIATION OF
FREE WILL BAPTISTS
WHEN CONVENED IN
Cullman, Alabama
At the
First Free Will Baptist Church
OCTOBER 29-30, 1976

1976-77 OFFICERS

MODERATOR Rev. Kenneth Terry
Route 2, Box 112A, Blountsville, Alabama 35031

ASSISTANT MODERATOR Bro. Lee Headrick
1301 Brunner Street, Cullman, Alabama 35055

CLERK-TREASURER Mr. Harold Goode
711 Barclift Street, Hartselle, Alabama 35640

ASSISTANT-CLERK Mrs. Myrna Montgomery
Route 2, Box 16, Madison, Alabama 35758

* The 1977 session of this association will convene with First Free Will Baptist Church, Decatur, Alabama on January, 1977.

MINISTERS AND DEACONS MEETING

The eleventh session of the North Alabama Association of Freewill Baptists met with the First Freewill Baptist Church at Cullman, Alabama.

The sixth Ministers and Deacons conference met Friday night. The session opened with congregational singing led by Rev. Phil Kimbrough. The opening song was "When the Roll is Called up Yonder". Prayer by Rev. Dennis Reeves.

The meeting was called to order by the Moderator, Bro. Paul Jones. Bro. Jones also gave the welcome.

There were eleven Ministers and five Deacons plus two who were set aside present. There were visitors from The Pleasant Hill Freewill Baptist Church, Jasper, Alabama and Souls Harbor Freewill Baptist Church, Cullman, Alabama.

Bro. Arlie Griffus brought the Devotion using as his text Isaiah the 38th chapter and Hosea the 14th chapter.

Dr. Joseph Ange brought the message using Acts the 8th chapter as his text with the thought, "What We Need More Of".

The election of officers was held with the following men being elected:

MODERATOR — Bro. Arlie Griffus

CLERK-TREASURER — Bro. Harold L. Goode

Motion made, seconded and carried to adjourn.

Rev. Kenneth Terry led in the closing prayer.

SATURDAY MORNING 10:00 A.M.

We convened with Bro. Paul Jones leading, "I Feel Like Traveling On", with Gail Quick at the piano. Prayer by Bro. Charles Pennington. The morning devotion was given by Rev. Melvin Hunter. His text was Hebrews, chapter 12 with the thought, "Things That So Easily Beset Us". Rev. Hunter concluded his devotion with prayer.

Moderator, Rev. Phil Kimbrough called the session to order. The welcome was given by Rev. Melvin Hunter. The response was given by the Moderator.

The Committees were appointed as follows:

The Credentials Committee:

Sister Myra Montgomery - Chairman
Bro. Don Rohrscheib
Sister Betty Goode

The Presbytery Committee:

Rev. John Edwards - Chairman
Rev. Archie L. Harris
Rev. Kenneth Terry
Rev. Bill Goodwin
Bro. Charles Pennington

The Business Committee:

Bro. Arlie Griffus - Chairman
Bro. Arthur Knox
Bro. Jim Hamelton

The Nominating Committee:

Bro. Paul Jones - Chairman
Bro. Lee Headrick
Bro. Bud Hill

The Obituary Committee:

Sister Alice Barkley - Chairman
Sister Kenneth Terry
Sister Cozie Holmes
Sister Ann Rohrscheib
Sister Winnie Atkins

The Moderator dismissed for a ten minute break. We reconvened by singing, "I'll Be Satisfied".

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE REPORT

We, the Credentials Committee have examined the letters from each church and found them in order and recommend that they be received and the delegates be seated.

The First Freewill Baptist Church, Decatur request that Bro. Harold L. Goode and Bro. Arlie Griffus be examined for Deacons having been on trial in their church for one year. To be ordained at a later date in their church.

The First Freewill Baptist Church, Cullman request that Rev. Melvin Hunter's credentials be ratified and that he be accepted into the North Alabama Association. Motion, seconded and carried.

The minutes were read and accepted as read. The Treasurer's Report was given and accepted also.

Bro. Paul Jones led the congregation in singing, "An Old Account Was Settled". An offering of \$52.08 was received.

Bro. Paul Jones led the congregation in singing, "Victory In Jesus".

Rev. James Wheeler from The Forresdale Church was recognized.

Dr. Joseph Ange brought the morning message, using Matthew, Chapter 16 as his text.

Rev. Melvin Hunter led in prayer and returned thanks for the noon meal.

A DELICIOUS MEAL WAS SERVED BY THE HOST CHURCH

AFTERNOON SESSION

The afternoon session convened with "Glory To His Name", led by Bro. Paul Jones. Rev. James Wheeler led in prayer then we sang, "Heaven's Jubilee".

Bro. Bud Hill brought the evening devotion using the 4th chapter of Acts as his text. Prayer by the speaker.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES:

Presbytery:

We, the Presbytery Committee have met with Bro. Harold L. Goode and Bro. Arlie Griffus and recommend that they be ordained as Deacons in their church at a later date. Motion, seconded and carried.

We recommend that Rev. Melvin Hunter's credentials be ratified and that he be accepted into the North Alabama Association. Motion, seconded and carried.

Obituary:

We, the Obituary Committee report the following deaths:
Cedar Creek Freewill Baptist Church
Sister Della Reed

Maple Grove Freewill Baptist Church
Bro. R. W. Baird, Sr.

Motion, seconded and carried to receive this report as information and have silent prayer in memory of same.

Business:

We, the Business Committee recommend that we give Dr. Joseph Ange \$75.00 for his expenses. Motion, seconded and carried.

Nominating:

We, the Nominating Committee recommend the following officers:

Moderator: Rev. Kenneth Terry
Assistant Moderator: Bro. Lee Headrick
Clerk-Treasurer: Bro. Harold L. Goode
Assistant Clerk: Sister Myrna Montgomery
Motion, seconded and carried.

Delegates appointed to State Association

Decatur — Sister Betty Goode
Maple Grove — Sister Alice Barkley — Bro. Tom Lowery
Cedar Creek — Sister Cozie Holmes
Cullman — Sister Bill Goodwin
Laodecia — Sister Winnie Atkins

Rev. John Edwards brought to our attention that Bro. Coleman Holmes, our board member of The Children's Home was no longer attending a church in the North Alabama Association. Bro. Paul Jones made a motion to replace Bro. Coleman Holmes. Motion, seconded and carried. Bro. Lee Headrick nominated Rev. Bill Goodwin to replace Bro. Coleman Holmes. Motion, seconded and carried.

Rev. John Edwards asked each church to participate in the Youth Ralleys. Announcements were made and a rising vote of thanks was given to the host church.

QUARTERLY MEETINGS AS FOLLOWS:

January 29, 1977 First Church — Decatur, Alabama
April 30, 1977 Laodecia — Hanceville, Alabama
July 30, 1977 Maple Grove — Madison, Alabama
October 29, 1977 Midway — Hanceville, Alabama

Motion made, seconded and carried to adjourn.

Closing prayer by Rev. Bill Goodwin

Moderator — Rev. Kenneth Terry
Clerk-Treasurer — Harold L. Goode

ORDAINED MINISTERS

Rev. John Edwards
809 Westwood Drive, SW
Decatur, Alabama 35601

Rev. Phil Kimbrough
Route 3, Box 71
Hartselle, Alabama 35640

Rev. Kenneth Terry
Route 2, Box 112A
Blountsville, Alabama 35031

Rev. Odie Curvin
Route 2, Box 124A
Blountsville, Alabama 35031

Rev. Melvin Hunter
1907 Woodview
Hartselle, Alabama 35640

Rev. Bill Goodwin
Route 13, Box 294
Cullman, Alabama 35055

Rev. Charles Lindsey
Route 2
Falkville, Alabama 35622

ORDAINED DEACONS

Cedar Creek

Albert L. Henry
Route 1
Hartselle, Alabama 35640

Bill Foote
Route 3
Hartselle, Alabama 35640

Cullman.

Delbert Lindsey
Route 1, Box 89A
Falkville, Alabama 35622

James Owen
Route 12, Box 106
Cullman, Alabama 35055

Buddy Bryson
117 McNabb Road
Cullman, Alabama 35055

Don Rohrscheib
Route 2
Vinemont, Alabama 35179

Decatur

Paul Jones
Route 2, Box 8
Falkville, Alabama 35622

Laodecia

Lee Headrick
1301 Brunner Street
Cullman, Alabama 35055

Maple Grove

Otis Lowery
Church Street
Madison, Alabama 35758

Walter Craig
Mill Road
Madison, Alabama 35758

U. G. Lowery
Route 2
Madison, Alabama 35758

Midway

Charles Pennington
Route 6, Box 306
Hanceville, Alabama 35077

Church	Co-op Plan	Foreign Missions	National & Home Miss.	Education	Children's Home	Superannuation	Asst. Proj.	Other	Total Outside Exp.	Value of Church P.	Value of Pars.
Cedar Creek	0	\$450.00	\$398.00	0	\$398.00	0	0	\$398.00	\$1,644.00	\$56,500	\$16,500
First Free Will Baptist Cullman	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	\$65,000	0
First Free Will Baptist Decatur	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	\$170,000	\$30,000
Laodecia	0	\$20.00	\$20.00	0	\$124.42	\$20.00	0	0	\$729.17	\$25,000	0
Maple Grove	0	\$90.00	\$137.54	\$247.07	\$55.00	\$100.00	\$51.00	0	\$800.61	\$40,000	0
Midway	0	0	\$185.89	0	0	0	0	0	\$185.89	\$18,500	0

Church	Number of Members	Ordained Ministers	Licensed Ministers	Ordained Deacons	S.S. Enr.	CTS Enr.	Woman's Aux.	Paid Pastor
Cedar Creek	118	1	0	2	84	65	8	\$6,475.00
First Free Will Baptist Cullman	78	3	1	4	50	50	10	\$2,240.43
First Free Will Baptist Decatur	181	1	0	1	111	50	15	\$2,150.00
Laodecia	57	1	0	1	30	0	0	\$1,681.99
Maple Grove	59	0	0	3	35	20	10	\$4,850.00
Midway	54	1	0	1	40	0	16	\$1,047.82

CHURCH	PASTOR	CLERK
Cedar Creek Hartselle, Alabama	Rev. Phil Kimbrough Route 3, Box 71 Hartselle, AL 35640	Arthur Knox 305 Gilchrist Street Hartselle, AL 35640
First Free Will Baptist Cullman, Alabama	Rev. Melvin Hunter 1907 Woodview Hartselle, AL 35640	Jane Lindsey Route 1, Box 89A Falkville, AL 35622
First Free Will Baptist Decatur, Alabama	Rev. John Edwards 809 Westwood Dr., SW Decatur, AL 35601	Inez Jones Route 2, Box 8 Falkville, AL 35622
Laodecia Hanceville, Alabama	Rev. Odie Curvin Route 2, Box 124A Blountsville, AL 35051	Ruth Headrick 1301 Brunner St., NW Cullman, AL 35055
Maple Grove Madison, Alabama		Wanda Hamilton 206 Front Street Madison, AL 35758
Midway Hanceville, Alabama	Rev. Kenneth Terry Route 2, Box 112A Blountsville, AL 35031	Truman Starnes Route 2 Blountsville, AL 35031

TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance brought forward.	\$98.56
Dues received	120.00
Offering.	52.08
Total receipts	\$270.64

Paid out: Dr. Joseph Ange.	\$75.00
State Association	30.00

Balance	\$165.64
-------------------	----------

GUIDE LINES FOR ORDINATION

- I. This Association ordains no man that has more than one living wife; nor a man whose wife has more than one living husband.
- II. This Association ordains no one to preach the Gospel until he carries a license for one year unless he is called to pastorate.
- III. This Association ordains no one that doesn't believe fully the faith and practice of the Free Will Baptist Treatise.
- IV. This Association ordains no one that doesn't believe and practice tithing.
- V. This Association ordains no one that doesn't believe in the verbal inspiration of the Word of God.
- VI. This Association will not ordain women to preach the Gospel.
- VII. This Association will not ordain anyone that is affiliated with the World Council of Churches.
- VIII. This Association will not ordain any one with a bad character with them that are without.
- IX. This Association will not ordain anyone that doesn't believe and practice the ordinances of the Church.
 - A. Baptism by immersion
 - B. Communion (open)
 - C. Feet Washing
- X. This Association will not ordain anyone that doesn't believe a person can apostatize and be lost.

MINISTERIAL DISCIPLINE

Whereas,

The Bible teaches the manner in which a minister should be disciplined; and

Whereas,

The Free Will Baptist Treatise clearly outlines the procedure for disciplinary action concerning one of our ministers; and

Whereas,

Our churches and district association tend to be lax in following the Biblical principles and the guidelines set forth in the Treatise in properly disciplining ministers whose character is called into question; and

Whereas,

This brings reproach on the name of Christ and our denomination

Be it resolved:

1. That our churches be requested to follow the Scriptures and the Treatise when any need for discipline arises.
2. That churches exercise wisdom in calling a pastor by properly investigating him.
3. That associations carefully check the credentials of ministers who transfer from another association before receiving a minister into fellowship.
4. That each district association be requested to publish in their state association paper the names of any ministers whose credentials have been revoked.

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 the fourth Saturday 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 peity, 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.