

Minutes

OF THE

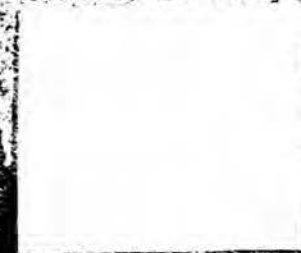
Eighty-Ninth Annual Session of the

# North Florida Free Will Baptist Association

Held at

Mount Carmel Church, Taylor County, Florida,

October 7th and 8th, A. D., 1920.



REPORTERS  
M. H. STONINGTON, M. H. STONINGTON, JR.  
BENJAMIN L. STONINGTON, JR.  
JAMES L. STONINGTON, JR.

# Minutes

OF THE

Eighth Annual Session of the

## North Florida Free Will Baptist Association

Held WITH

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### OFFICERS

REV. M. H. TOUCHTON, Moderator ..... O'Brien, Fla.  
W. D. BENNETT, Clerk ..... Stockton, Ga.  
T. S. AGNER, Treasurer ..... Dowling Park, Fla.

Next session will be held with Pierce Chapel Church,  
beginning on Thursday night before the second  
Sunday in October, 1921. Delegates will be  
met at Hildreth, Fla., Thursday.

The introductory sermon to be  
preached by Rev. J. H.  
Crese, Perry, Fla.

The Eighteenth Annual Session of the North Florida Free Will Baptist Association met with Mt. Carmel Free Will Baptist Church, Taylor County, the 7th of October, 1920, at 7:30 o'clock p. m. The introductory sermon was preached by Rev. E. C. Dedge. Song books used in the Association, "Sunday School and Revival." Song No. 115. Prayer by Speaker. Lesson, Rom. 13 Chap.; text, St. John 13:35. Song No. 167. Prayer by Rev. H. G. Cruse. Benediction by Bro. H. H. Hargroves.

#### FRIDAY MORNING SESSION

Body called to order by former moderator. Song No. 58. Prayer by Moderator. Decorum read. The following churches represented by letters and delegates:

#### CHURCHES AND THEIR DELEGATES

Gethsemane, W. D. Bennett; Mt. Carmel, W. L. Osteen, Hardy Sealy; St. John, D. D. Poppell, D. D. Malone, Pierce Chapel, H. H. Hargroves; Pine Level, T. S. Agner, F. M. Dryden; Knight's Chapel, W. S. Ward; Mt. Willing, Roy McCall, J. H. Lee. Letters read and approved. Called for petitionary letters. No response.

Election of Officers: W. D. Bennett, Clerk; T. S. Agner, Treasurer re-elected; Rev. M. H. Touchton, Moderator; Roy McCall, Assistant Clerk; Rev. E. C. Dedge, Assistant Moderator.

Visiting brethren invited to seats with us. Called for corresponding Messengers. (No response.)

Appointment of Committees as follows: On preaching, temperance, finance, nomination, education, Sunday School, state of ministers and deacons, obituaries. Unfinished business (none). Body adjourned for preaching.

Friday 11:00 o'clock a. m. Service conducted by Rev. J. H. Cruse. Song No. 171. Prayer by speaker. Lesson Act. 2; text 21 verse. Song No. 63. Prayer by Revs. M. H. Touchton and J. H. Cruse. Benediction by Rev. E. C. Dedge.

Friday afternoon session. Body called to order. Song No. 104. Prayer by Bro. J. H. Lee. Roll called. Decorum read. Carried that we have services at 4:00 clock.

Miscellaneous business: Bro. S. E. Newman's membership restored at Mt. Willing through delegation. Reports of committees as follows read and approved: On preaching, temperance, nomination, finance, education, Sunday School, state of ministers, deacons and obituaries, executive. Carried that we excuse Bro. D. D. Malone for the day. Carried that Bros. J. H. Cruse and H. G. Cruse be excused until Saturday morning. Song No. 224. Services turned over to Bro. F. M. Dryden and Bro. S. E. Newman. Song No. 114. Prayer by speaker. Lesson Rom. 15. Song No. 157. Prayer by Bro. H. H. Hargroves. Carried that we have 200 minutes printed. Carried that the Clerk correspond with Editor at Live Oak, Fla., Pearson, Ga., and Homerville, Ga., and get the work done as cheap

as possible. Carried that we donate the Clerk \$10.00. Card of thanks be prepared by the clerk. Reports on Sunday School received. Carried that we elect a Sunday School Board as follows: W. S. Ward, W. L. Osteen, E. C. Dedge, T. S. Agner, W. J. Williams and Roy McCall. Adjournment for preaching at 7:00 p. m. Song No. 210.

#### FRIDAY 7:00 P. M. SERVICE

Preaching by Rev. S. E. Newman. Song No. 180. Lesson, Gal. 5th Chap. Text Rom. 6:15. Prayer by speaker. Song No. 96. Benediction by speaker.

#### SATURDAY MORNING SESSION

Body called to order. Song No. 104. Prayer by Bro. Roy McCall. Roll call. Decorum read. Carried that Rev. M. H. Touchton be our Field Worker in this Association. Carried that each church represented here donate to Rev. M. H. Touchton \$10.00 for field work. Individuals as follows: Rev. S. E. Newman, \$20.00; Bro. T. S. Agner, \$10.00; Rev. E. C. Dedge, \$5.00; Bro. W. L. Osteen, \$5.00; Bro. F. M. Dryden, \$5.00. Grand total, \$115.00. Treasurer's report read and approved. Adjourned for preaching at 11 o'clock. a. m. Song No. 122. Prayer by Rev. S. E. Newman.

Eleven o'clock services conducted by Rev. H. G. Cruse. Song No. 38. Prayer by Rev. M. H. Touchton. Lesson Matt. 3rd Chap. Text 3rd verse. Song No. 138. Prayer by Rev. S. E. Newman.

#### SATURDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

Song No. 58. Prayer by Bro. T. S. Agner. Roll call. Decorum read. Carried that we take the parting hand Saturday night. Executive committee's report read and approved. Adjournment for preaching at 4 o'clock. Benediction by Rev. E. C. Dedge.

#### 4:00 P. M. SERVICE

Preaching by Rev. E. C. Dedge. Song No. 73. Prayer by J. H. Lee. Lesson Act. 22nd Chap. Text Acts 9:6. Song No. 207. Prayer by Bro. W. B. Hendry. Benediction by Moderator.

#### 7:00 P. M. SERVICE

Preaching by Rev. M. H. Touchton. Song No. 203. Prayer by Bro. Fife. Lesson, St. John 10th Chap. Text 14:15. Prayer by Bro. W. S. Ward. Song No. 7. Prayer by Bro. H. H. Hargroves. Paschal Supper was taken by church and body. Afterward foot-washing. Song No. 9 was sung while taking parting hand. Benediction by Rev. S. E. Newman.

#### SUNDAY 11:00 A. M. SERVICE

Preaching by Rev. E. C. Dedge. Song No. 71. Prayer by Bro. W. S. Ward. Lesson, St. Luke 14th Chap to 23 verse. Song No. 167. Prayer by Rev. H. G. Cruse and speaker. Song No. 65. Benediction by Rev. H. G. Cruse.

#### 7:00 P. M. SERVICE.

Preaching by Rev. H. G. Cruse. Song No. 116. Prayer by Clerk. Testimonial meeting. Prayer by Bro. W. S. Ward. Lesson St. John, 1st 27. Isaiah 53:3. Prayer by Rev. E. C. Dedge. Song No. 224. Benediction by speaker.

RESOLUTION: Be it resolved, as this body is growing scant of delegates, ministers and deacons, we recommend that the churches look careful to send the same or report the cause.

#### REPORT OF COMMITTEES ON PREACHING

We report as follows: Friday 11:00 a. m., Rev. J. H. Cruse; 4:00 p. m., Bro. F. M. Dryden and Rev. S. E. Newman; 7:00 p. m., Rev. S. E. Newman; Saturday 11:00 a. m., Rev. H. G. Cruse; 4:00 p. m., Rev. E. C. Dedge; 7:00 p. m., Rev. M. H. Touchton; Sunday 11:00 a. m., Rev. E. C. Dedge; 7:00 p. m., Rev. H. G. Cruse. T. S. AGNER, Chmn.

#### TEMPERANCE

We beg to report as follows: Be ye temperate in all things. Beware of strong drink and all other matters of intemperance. J. H. CRUSE, Chairman.

#### FINANCE

We make the following report: Pearce Chapel, \$10.00; St. John \$11.60; Gethsemane, \$10.00; Mt. Carmel, \$10.00; Knight's Chapel, \$7.70; Pine Level, \$5.00; Mt. Willing, \$10.00. Total, \$64.30.

W. S. WARD, Chairman.

#### NOMINATIONS

We beg to report as follows: We have destined Pearce Chapel church to be the home of the Association, to convene Thursday night before the 2nd Sunday in October, 1921, with Rev. J. H. Cruse to preach the introductory sermon. Delegates will be met at Hildreth, Fla., on Thursday.

H. G. CRUSE, Chairman.

#### EDUCATION

We commit the following to your consideration: We want all of our churches to hold up the banner for the best models of education in their boundary, both literal and religious as this is a means of learning God's will.

S. E. NEWMAN, Chairman.

#### SUNDAY SCHOOL

We beg to report as follows: We believe in Sunday Schools in behalf of young and old, as it is a fine place to train our minds to the teachings of the Bible, and we hope that in the near future we will all be practicing same.

W. S. WARD, Chairman.

## STATE OF MINISTERS AND DEACONS

We find our Ministers and Deacons in good standing at all of our sister churches.

W. D. BENNETT, Chairman.

## OBITUARIES

We, your committee, submit the following: We find that the Good Lord has called from our midst as follows: Mt. Carmel, 2; Threese Chapel, 1; Mt. Wilhng, 1; St. John, 1.

W. L. Osteen, Chairman.

## EXECUTIVE

We, your committee, beg to report as follows: There has nothing appeared for us to act upon during this year.

H. G. CRUSE, Chairman.

E. C. Dedge, J. C. Touchton, Committee.

## TREASURER'S REPORT FOR 1920

Balance on hand from 1918	\$17.06
Donation 1919	34.75
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$51.81</b>
Paid Clerk, 1919	20.94
<b>Balance</b>	<b>\$41.81</b>
Paid for Minutes 1919	20.94
<b>Balance on hand</b>	<b>\$20.87</b>
Total paid out	30.94
<b>Balance on hand</b>	<b>\$20.87</b>

Respectfully,

T. S. AGNER, Treasurer.

## CARD OF THANKS PREPARED BY CLERK

To the Liberal People of Mt. Carmel Community:

We wish to thank you for your kind attitude toward us while with you, and pray that God may send His richest blessings upon you all. We all hope and trust to do better and serve God closer in the future than we have in the past. We cordially invite all Free Will Baptists to visit us in our Association and assist us in serving our God. Come ye all and pray with us.

## ORDAINED MINISTERS AND THEIR POST OFFICES

E. C. Dedge, Stockton, Ga.; M. H. Touchton, O'Brien, Fla.; J. H. Cruse, Peiry, Fla.; H. G. Cruse, Bell, Fla.; L. W. Nelson, Wau-chula, Fla.; W. M. Zeigler Stockton, Ga.; S. E. Newman, Elfers, Fla.

## ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. This body shall open after each adjournment with prayer.
2. Call for letters. Have them read and names of delegates and ministers enrolled.
3. Call for petitionary letters.
4. Elect Clerk, Treasurer, Moderator, etc.
5. Invite visiting brethren to seats with us.
6. Call for corresponding Messengers.
7. Appoint committees as follows: On preaching, temperance, finance, nomination, education, Sunday School, state of ministers and deacons, obituaries.
8. Unfinished business. Report of committees.
9. Miscellaneous business. Treasurer's report.
10. Executive committee's report. Adjournment.

## CONSTITUTION

1. This Association shall be known as the North Florida Free Will Baptist Association.

2. It shall be composed of: (1) The ministers, both ordained and licentiate, belonging thereto. (2) Legal delegates from the churches composing the same.

3. Requirements for churches: Each church shall be required to send up an annual report to the Association, in which they shall make a brief statement of the work of the pastor; report the character and usefulness of the ministers whose membership is with them; give the name and postoffice of the church clerk; give the number baptized, received by letter, dismissed by letter, excluded, and the number of members and the amount paid for Association purposes.

4. Each church in the Association shall be considered an advisory body and shall control its own internal affairs, having the unrestricted right to administer its own government without suspension or interference, being under Christ essentially independent and absolute.

5. This body shall be considered an advisory council, whose duty it is to meet annually at such places as may be agreed upon at the previous session, and not to adjourn formally until all business is settled, and while there it shall be its duty to examine all questions of general interest to the Association and to use its best influence to promote all moral and benevolent means and institutions, such as education, Sabbath Schools, missionary and temperance work, etc.

6. The officers of this Association shall be a Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer, chosen annually by a majority of votes.

7. Churches wishing to become members of this Association, must adopt our Articles of Faith and conform to its usage.

8. Every regular church shall be entitled to two delegates to the General Conference.



9. This Constitution may be altered or amended at any session of this Association by a majority of votes.

#### RULES OF DECORUM

1. At the meeting of each session of the Association the officers of the previous session shall preside until their successors are known.

2. At each meeting and prior to proceeding to business, the names of the delegates shall be called.

3. At the close of each session the entire proceedings of each session shall be read for correction and approval.

4. Any person wishing to speak shall rise and address the moderator. He shall confine himself to the question under consideration and avoid personalities.

5. No person shall speak more than twice on any subject without permission of the body.

6. No motion shall be withdrawn after its discussion.

7. When a question is under discussion no motion or proposition shall be received except to adjourn, to lay on the table, to amend or postpone indefinitely, when several motions shall be offered in the order when they are stated.

8. After a motion has been decided, any member having voted the affirmative may move a reconsideration.

9. No member shall absent himself during the session without permission of the presiding officer, and none shall take leave without the permission of the body.

10. The Association has the right to decide what matters can be admitted to its consideration.

11. The body shall elect a Sunday School Board annually, and it shall consist of six members from the various churches of the Association and they shall report annually.

12. Resolved, that this body shall not receive any minister as a member unless he has deposited his membership in some one of our churches that compose this body.

13. We will not allow any minister to become a member of our body unless he has deposited his membership in some one of our churches that compose this body.

14. We, as a body, agree not to support anyone offering himself for office, either state or national, who uses or is in favor of the use of intoxicating liquors as a beverage. We want all our churches to hold their members subject to these resolutions.

15. The Association will not use any finance sent in by the various churches, only for actual expenses of this body.

16. This body shall annually elect one or more evangelistic workers in the Association and they shall report to this body while a session as to their work.

17. This body while in session, and before the final conclusion, shall commemorate the Paschal Supper.

18. These Rules of Decorum may be amended at each session of the Association.

#### ARTICLES OF FAITH

1. We believe that there is but one living, true and eternal God, the Father, of whom are all things, from everlasting to everlasting, glorious and immutable in all His attributes.—1 Cor. 8:6; Isa. 40:28.

2. We believe that there is one Lord Jesus Christ by whom are all things, the only begotten Son of God, born of the Virgin Mary, whom God freely sent into His world, because of the great love wherewith He loved the world; and Christ as freely gave Himself a ransom for all, tasting death for every man; who was buried and rose again the third day and ascended into Heaven, from whence we look for Him the second time in the clouds of Heaven, at the last day, to judge the quick and dead.—1 Tim. 2:5-6; Heb. 2:9; St. John 3:16; Rev. 1:7; Acts 24:15; 1 John 2:2.

3. We believe that there is one Holy Ghost, the precious gift of the Father through His dear Son, unto the world, who quickeneth and draweth sinners home to God.—St. John 16:7-8; Acts 2:4; Eph. 2:1; Eph. 4:4-6.

4. We believe that in the beginning God made man upright, and placed him in a state of glory without the least mixture of misery from which he voluntarily, by transgression, fell, and by that means brought on himself a miserable and mortal state, subject to death.—Gen. 2:17; 3:19.

5. We believe that God is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance and the knowledge of the truth, that they might be saved, for which end Christ hath commanded the gospel to be preached among all nations and to every creature.—Mark 16:15; Luke 24:47; John 3:15-17; 1 Tim. 2:4.

6. We believe that no man shall suffer in hell for want of a Christ, who died for him, but as the Scripture has said, for denying the Lord that bought them; because they believe not in the name of the only begotten Son of God. Unbelief, therefore, being the cause why the just and righteous God of Heaven will condemn the children of men, it follows against all contradiction that all men, at one time or another are found in such a capacity as that through the grace of God that they may be eternally saved.—Acts 17:30; Mark 6:6; Heb. 3:10; 1 John 5:10.

7. We believe the whole Scriptures are infallibly true, and that they are the only rules of faith and practice.—11 Tim. 3:16-17.

8. We believe in the doctrine of general provisions made of God in Christ, for the benefit of all mankind, who repent and believe the gospel.—Luke 14:16-20; Matt. 28:19-20; Luke 13:3-5; Luke 24:47; Acts 3:19; Mark 1:15.

9. We believe that sinners are drawn to God, the Father, by the Holy Ghost, through Christ, His Son, and that the Holy Ghost offers His divine aid to all the human family; so as they all might be happy, would they give place to His divine teachings; whereas, such who do not receive the divine impressions of His holy spirit shall, at a future day, own their condemnation just, and charge themselves with their own damnation for wilfully rejecting the offers

of heaven and grace.—Matt. 11:27; St. John 6:44-65; Psa. 11:1; Titus 2:11-12; Jer. 22:29.

10. We believe that men, not considered simply as men, but ungodly men were of old ordained to condemnation, considered such who turn the grace of God into lasciviousness, denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ who brought them, and therefore shall bring upon themselves swift destruction; but we observe that they and such the Apostle said because they receive not the love of truth that they might be saved, therefore the indignation and wrath of God is upon every soul of man that doeth evil, living and dying therein; for there is no respect of persons with God.—Jude 1:4; II Peter 2:1; II Thess. 2:11-12; Rom. 2:9-11.

11. We believe that all children dying in infancy, having not actually transgressed against the law of God in their own persons, are only subject to the first death, which was brought on them by the fall of the first Adam, and not that anyone of them dying in that state shall suffer punishment in hell by the guilt of Adam's sin, for of such is the kingdom of God—1 Cor. 15:22; Matt. 18:2-5; Mark 9:36-37; Matt. 19:14.

12. We believe that good works are the fruits of a saving faith, and that in the use of the means of grace, and not of the use of those means, eternal life is promised to men.—Rev. 22:14-15; Isa. 1:19-20; Matt. 7:8; Jer. 6:16; Luke 13:34-35.

13. We believe that no man has any warrant in the Holy Scriptures for justification before God through his own works, power or ability which he has in and of himself, only as he by grace is made able to come to God through Jesus Christ believing the righteousness of Jesus Christ to be imputed to all believers for their eternal acceptance with God.—Rom. 4:24; Acts 8:20-21.

14. We believe that all things are foreseen in the wisdom of God, so that God knoweth that whatsoever can or cannot come to pass upon all supposed conditions; yet not as having decreed any person to everlasting death or everlasting life out of respect of mere choice, further than He hath appointed the godly unto life and the ungodly who die in sin unto death.—Heb. 4:13; Prov. 8:22-31; Matt. 25:31-46.

15. We believe as touching gospel ordinances, in believers' baptism, laying on the hands, receiving of the sacrament of bread and wine, washing the saints' feet, anointing the sick with oil in the name of the Lord, fasting, prayer, singing praise to God, and the public ministry of the Word, with every institution of the Lord we shall find in the New Testament.—Mark 16:15-16; Acts 8:17; Acts 19:6; Luke 22:19-20; John 13:5-17; Jas. 5:14.

16. We believe that the gospel mode of baptism is by immersion and that the believers are the only subjects for baptism.—Matt. 3:16; Mark 1:9-10; Acts 3:38-39; Rom. 6:4; Col. 2:12.

17. We believe in a general resurrection of the dead and a final judgment at the last day.—John 5:28-29; 2d Cor. 5:10.

18. We believe the happiness of the righteous is eternal and the torments of the wicked are endless.—Matt. 25:46.

## STATISTICAL TABLE

CHURCHES, COUNTIES AND STATES	PASTORS	CLERKS AND THEIR POST OFFICES	Recd. by Confession						Recd. by Letter	Recd. by Baptism	Expelled	Died	Total
			1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gethsemane, Clinch, Ga.	L. W. Nelson	W. D. Bennett, Stockton, Ga.	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pine Level, Suwannee, Fla.	M. H. Touchton	Janie J. Newman, Live Oak, Fla.	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
St. John, Taylor, Fla.	J. H. Cruise	W. R. Dorman, Perry, Fla.	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pierce Chapel, Alachua, Fla.	E. C. Dedge	Lee Daws, Bell, Fla.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mt. Willing, Suwannee, Fla.	E. C. Dedge	G. D. Thomas, O'Brien, Fla.	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Right's Chapel, Suwannee, Fla.	E. C. Dedge	R. A. Stapleton, Live Oak, Fla.	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mt. Carmel, Taylor, Fla.	J. H. Cruise	Mac Grubbs, Perry, Fla.	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0