

MINUTES
OF THE
Third Session Of The
PROGRESSIVE ASSOCIATION
OF FREE WILL BAPTIST



HELD WITH
VERNON CHURCH

October 16, 17, 1934



OFFICERS

Rev. J. B. Bloss	Moderator
W. H. Ryland	Assistant Moderator
E. W. Graves	Clerk
J. T. Johnson	Treasurer

The next session of this Association will convene with Townley Church on Tuesday, after the Second Sunday in October, 1935.

PROCEEDINGS

The third session of the Progressive Association of the Free Will Baptist.

TUESDAY A. M.

Opened by song led by Prof. Gardner, prayer by Elder Ryland. Devotional led by Elder Lambert.

Sermon by Elder G. W. Franks, subject "The kind of ministers needed."

Lunch.

TUESDAY P. M.

After singing and scripture reading Rev. J. A. Clark led the prayer. Welcome address by the pastor. Response Bro. Garner Carter.

MODERATOR'S ADDRESS

Reading of Church letters and seating of messengers. The following churches responded and messengers seated. Sulphur Springs, W. H. Kuykendall, P. H. Keller. Cayl Hall; Unity Grove, W. M. Fields, Ed Robertson, J. A. Cole; Union Ridge, Elmer Bolen. Clarence Taylor; Vernon, M. D. Turner, W. E. Robertson, Mrs. W. Y. Turner; Cordova. Sister Carrie Ryland; Antioch, Sister Rose Wright, Josephine Kilgore; Townley, Sisters Edith Deaton. Mrs. Grady Pierce; Dovertown by letter.

The following deacons were enrolled: P. A. Crawford, C. C. Gibbs, C. L. Adair, L. B. Robertson, J. H. Cole. J. T. Kuykendall, M. G. Carter, J. L. McNeese, W. M. Edgeworth, W. L. Turner.

Address. Our motives by E. W. Graves. Assignment to homes.

TUESDAY EVENING

Song service. Devotional led by Quick. A fine testimony service. Our mission work by Elder Ryland, chairman of mission board. Offering \$3.25. Sermon by Elder Bloss. text Prov. 29-18.

WEDNESDAY A. M.

Opened with song, prayer, and scripture reading. Roll call; Bro. Haas from Vernon Association, and Bro. Quick from Flint River Association were seated. Bro. Dewey Jordan, J. W. Adair and Bro. M. E. Hollis from Vernon and Bro. Thompson from Miss., State Line were seated.

Ministers report (see table).

Motion carried that Alabama City be granted a letter of dismissal.

Deacons meeting—Number of Deacons required by E. M. Fields—Deacons duty to church by Elder G. W. Franks—Deacons duty to pastor by Bro. Quick.

LADIES AID MEETING

Song. Work for the night is coming. Scripture reading by chairman Sister Bloss. Prayer by Sister Sanders.

Reports called for. Fine reports were received from Cordova and Sulphur Springs.

Motion carried that an Association be organized of the Ladies Aid within the Progressive Association and that they represent in the State Association.

"Our aim", Sister P. A. Crawford. Must Ladies keep quite in church? by Sister Walter Fields.

4. The moderator organize all new churches or authorize some one.
5. That the association buy a tent.
6. That an evangelist be elected to be supported by the association and that he be in the field by May 1, 1935.
7. That Elder J. B. Bloss be elected Evangelist and that his salary be arranged by Mission Board, and that he be allowed to select his helper.
8. That each church up to 25 members bring \$3.00, 35 members \$3.50; and all over, \$5.00 for associational expenses.
9. That Rev. J. B. Bloss and E. W. Graves go to general conference as delegates.
10. That the next session of association meet with Townley Church.
11. That E. W. Graves, Robert Crawford with pastor of Townley Church be responsible for the program of next association.
12. That the clerk of this association have charge of the printing of the minutes and that he have \$5.00 for his services.
13. That each pastor try his very best to have a League, Sunday School and a mid-week prayer service.
14. That J. T. Johnson and M. G. Carter go as corresponding delegates to Alabama-Mississippi state line associations, meeting with Pleasant Site Church.
15. That Rev. Ryland and Lambert represent us in moving Star Associations meeting with Cross Roads.
16. That this association extend its thanks to Vernon and surrounding community for the kindness and hospitality shown us during this session. —Respectfully submitted, J. T. Johnson, chairman.

CHURCH COVENANT

Having been brought, as we believe by Divine Grace to accept the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior and Preserver, we do now solemnly and joyfully covenant and agree by God's help, to walk together, in brotherly love.

We, therefore enter into covenant as members of this church and as Christians, that we will watch over each other in love, sharing together each other's joys and sorrows that we will not forsake the assembling of ourselves together, nor omit the great duty of prayer for ourselves and others that by Divine assistance we will endeavor to bring up these under our care in the nurture and admonition of the Lord; that in all things we will strive to exemplify our profession by a corresponding practice, to abstain from all sinful conformity to the world, to be just in our dealings, faithful in our agreements, and exemplary in all our deportment; that we will abstain from the sale and use of intoxicating liquors as a beverage that we will sustain the worship, ordinances, discipline and doctrine of this church; that we will contribute cheerfully according to our ability to the support of the ministry, the expense of the church, the relief of the poor and the general spread of the Gospel.

CONSTITUTION

Article 1. This association shall be known as the Progressive Association of Free Will Baptists of Alabama and bordering states.

Article 2. This association shall be composed of ministers, deacons and delegates of different churches forming the same.

Article 3. All ministers and churches wishing to become members of this goodly must willingly submit to the articles of faith, constitution, and all rules of the same.

Article 4. Each church in this association shall be entitled to three delegates for the first hundreds members, or fraction thereof and one delegate for every additional fifty members.

Article 5. This association shall have a credential committee, composed of three members, two ordained ministers and one layman, who shall be appointed by the moderator at the convening of each regular session whose duty shall be to examine all church letters and applications for membership for both churches and ministers and make a report of same to the body.

Article 6. The officers of this association shall be a moderator, assistant moderator, clerk, and treasurer, who shall be elected by ballot at each regular session.

Article 7. This association shall meet on Tuesday and Wednesday following the second Sunday in October of each year, and shall not adjourn until all business is transacted.

Article 8. The association shall vote by ballot where the next association shall be held until one church gets the majority of votes cast.

Article 9. The constitution By-Laws may be altered or amended by a majority vote of any regular meeting if the proposed amendment shall have been presented at the last proceeding regular meeting and approved by that body and published in the minutes with notice that it will be acted upon at the next meeting.

Article 10. No ministers, deacons, or delegates shall be seated in this body unless they agree to stay throughout the session unless they are Providentially hindered.

Article 11. Each church representing in this association shall be required to bring annually five cents per capita, as an associational fund for the purpose of printing the minutes and associational expenses.

RULES OF DECORUM

1st. This association shall be opened and closed with singing and prayer. 2nd The officers elected at the previous session shall begin their administration at the opening of each regular session.

3rd. Only one person shall speak at a time. He shall arise and address the moderator and then recognized he shall proceed.

4th. No person shall be interrupted while speaking by anyone except by the moderator and not by the moderator unless he breaks the rules of order.

5th. The person speaking must adhere to the subject in question and shall not use words of personal reflection.

6th. No person shall speak more than twice on the same subject without leave of the association not more than five minutes each time.

- 7th. No member shall laugh or whisper in time of public speaking.
- 8th. No member shall address another except by the appellation of brother or sister.
- 9th. No member shall absent himself without leave of the moderator.
- 10th. The names of all the ministers, deacons and delegates shall be enrolled by the clerk, and called as often as deemed necessary by the moderator.
- 11th. Every member of this body shall vote for or against every move that comes before it. Those failing to do this shall be reprimanded by the moderator.
- 12th. Any person who shall knowingly break any of these rules shall be reproved by the moderator according to directions of the association.

CHURCH RULES

- 1st. We agree as a member of the Progressive Association of the Free Will Baptists to cooperate in every move for the betterment of our denomination and the extension of God's Kingdom throughout the world.
- 2nd. We agree to meet in conference quarterly or oftener if necessary to transact the business of the church.
- 3rd. The moderator shall be chosen by the suffrage of the church in the absence of the pastor. The moderator shall observe good order and explain all questions before he takes the voice of the church on them, and shall have the liberty of speech, as any other, but no vote unless there be a tie, when he shall give the deciding vote.
- 4th. It shall be the duty of all members to fill their seats in conference and bear their part of expenses.
- 5th. No member shall leave their seat during conference without permission from the moderator.
- No member shall arrange another before the church for any grievance without first taking gospel steps. See Matt. 18-15-16-17.
- 7th. All business brought before the church by motion and second and in gospel like order shall be attended to by the church unless withdrawn by the mover.
- 8th. Any person wishing to speak shall arise and address the moderator and if 2 arise at the same time the moderator shall decide who shall speak first and no member while speaking shall cast any reflection on any person but shall adhere strictly to the subject under consideration.
- 9th. No member shall speak twice on any subject without permission from the church and not more than five minutes at the time.
- 10th. It shall be the duty of all church members to be present at all church meetings to vote on all questions that come before the church when called on by the moderator or any member of the church who desires to obtain the mind of the whole church.
- 11th. If any member shall remain silent during the transaction of any business of the church and afterwards complain of what was done the same shall be deemed disorderly and the member so offending shall be dealt with accordingly.

13th. We agree to do all business by a majority of the members present at any regular or called conference providing a quorum is present, said quorum being seven members or more.

14th. These rules shall be read at the opening of each conference strictly enforced by the moderator.

15th. Any member who shall wilfully absent himself from church and who fails to discharge his duties as a member for six months, unless Providentially hindered shall not be permitted to vote in Church Conference until he or she make restitution.

16th. Any member desiring to move his membership from one church to another in this Association must have a letter, failing to do so he is taken under the watch care of the church until he presents letter.

17th. Concerning the ordination of Deacons. (a) He must be elected by the church of which he is a member. (b) He must be recommended by his church to the Credential Committee. (c) After examination and if found worthy the committee recommends the Association ordain them.

FORM OF CHURCH CONFERENCE

- 1st. Call the church to order.
- 2nd. Call for the peace of the church.
- 3rd. Opportunity for membership.
- 4th. Inviting visiting brothers and sisters to seat with us.
- 5th. Reading of minutes.
- 6th. Call for reference.
- 7th. Appointment of committees.
- 8th. Any acknowledgements.
- 9th. Report of committees.
- 10th. Unfinished business.
- 11th. New business.
- 12th. Adjournment.

ARTICLES OF FAITH

1. We believe that there is but one 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 this 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 both the quick and the dead. 1 Tim. 2:5-6; Heb. 2; St. John 3:16, Rev. 1:17. 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. 4, 4, 6, Eph. 2, 1.

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; John 3:15-17; 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 contradictions that all men at one time or other, are found in such a capacity as that through the grace of God they may be saved. Acts 17:30; Mark 6:6; Heb. 3-10; John 5-10.

7. We believe in the whole Scripture is infallibly true, and that they are the only rules of faith and practice. 2 Tim. 3:16-17.

8. We believe in the doctrine of General Provision made of God in Christ, for the benefit of all mankind who repent and believe the Gospel. Luke 14:16-20; Luke 13:3-5; Luke 24-27; Acts Matt. 28, 19-20. 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 teaching 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 sovereign grace. Matt. 11:27; St. John 6:44-65; Ps. 1-1; Tit. 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, Jesus Christ who bought them, and therefore, shall bring upon themselves swift destruction but we observe that they and such the Apostle saith because they receive not the love of faith that they might be saved, therefore, the indignation and wrath of God is upon every son of man that doeth evil, living and dying therein for there is no respect of person with God. Jude 1:4; Peter 2:1-2; Thes. 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 any one of them dying in the state shall suffer punishment in hell by the guilt of Adam's sin, for such is the Kingdom of God, Cor. 15:22; Matt. 18:2-5; Mark 9-36-37; Matt. 14:14.

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 out 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 of 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 whatever can or cannot come to pass upon all supposed conditions, yet not having decreed any person to everlasting life, out of respect or mere choice, farther 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 in 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 the Gospel made of water baptism is by immersion and that believers are the only subject for baptism. Matt. 3:16; Mark 1:9-10; Acts 2:38; Rom. 6:4; Col. 2:12.

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

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

RULES GOVERNING THE BOARD OF FINANCE

1. The management and control of the financial affairs of the Association shall be vested in the Board of Finance, elected by the Association in the manner provided by the Association.

2. The board shall meet as often as necessary at the call of the chairman at such time and place as he may designate, but they must meet at least annually.

3. The board at its annual meeting elect a director of finance whose duty shall be to direct the whole financial program of the Association.

4. The board shall report annually to the Association its receipts, disbursements, assets, liabilities and of its work in general, together with any recommendation deemed advisable.

5. The board at its annual meeting may elect its own officers.

6. Any member who is negligent in his duty shall forfeit his office and the same may be declared vacant by the moderator of the Association and his successor appointed.

7. A majority of the board shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

8. The secretary shall keep a correct account of the proceedings of the board and perform any other duty that usually pertains to his office.

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9. The board shall ascertain each year the financial needs of the various departments of church work and from such information make up the Association budget and apportion same to the individual churches.

10. It shall be the duty of this board to notify each church not later than October the first of each year of the amount of their apportionment.

11. It shall be the duty of the board to receive the funds collected by the secretary and divide the same as follows: for education, 30 per cent; for orphanage, 10 per cent; missions, 30 per cent; young people's work, 10 per cent; ladies aid, 10 per cent; aged ministers, 10 per cent; provided, however, that all Association expenses are allowed before division is made.

12. The rules may be amended at any time, but such amendments must be approved by the Association by a majority vote.

RULES FOR MISSION BOARD

1. The management and control of all mission work of this association shall be vested in the Board of Missions, elected by the Association in manner provided for such election.

2. The board shall meet as often as necessary at the call of the chairman at such time and place as he may designate, but must meet annually, and the executive committee elected by the board as many as twice each year.

3. The board in its annual meeting shall elect a director of missions, whose duty shall be to direct the whole missionary program of the Association.

4. The board shall report annually to the association at its regular meeting the receipts, disbursements, assets, and liabilities and of its work in general together with any recommendation deemed advisable.

5. The board at annual meeting shall elect its own officers.

6. Any member who shall persistently neglect any of the duties of his office, fails to attend meetings etc., shall forfeit his office and the same may be declared vacant by the moderator of the association and his successor named.

7. A majority of the board shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

8. The secretary shall keep a correct account of the proceeding of the board and perform any duty that usually pertains to his office.

9. The treasurer shall keep a record of all money, bonds, mortgages etc., belonging to the board. He shall report at all regular meetings of the board.

He shall give bond in such sum as may be fixed by the board from time to time which bond the secretary shall be custodian.

10. All Home Mission funds not in use shall be deposited at the discretion of the board.

11. Salaries and expenses may be allowed at the discretion of the board.

12. The rules may be amended from time to time on the approval of the Association.

STATISTICAL TABLE

Churches	Rec'd. by experience	Rec'd. by letter	By confession	By restoration	Expelled	Dismissed by letter	Dead	Active Members	Inactive	Total	Contribution	Sunday School	League	Aid	Given H. Mission	Foreign Mission	Evangelist	Given Pastor	Value of Property	Given other purposes	Clerks and Address
Cordova	0	0	0	0	1	3	0	37	56	93	\$3.00	YES	NO	YES	\$4.93	\$2.48		\$161.00	\$5,000.00	\$101.38	Mary Dunn Cordova, Ala. Mrs. W. E. Turner
Vernon	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	20	25	45	\$1.00	YES	NO	NO	0	0	\$20.00	\$ 22.00	\$2,000.00	\$ 10.00	Vernon, Ala. Kermit Crawford
Sulphur Spring	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	40	93	133	\$4.10	YES	YES	YES	0	0	\$32.00	\$ 07.34	\$1,200.00		Samantha, Ala. M. M. Wilson
Guin										103	\$1.50							\$ 34.00			Lora Weader
Union Ridge	0	1	4	0	0	0	0	20	52	72	\$1.00	YES	NO	NO	0	0	0	\$ 20.00	\$ 250.00		Minnie Fulton
Antioch	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	9	21	30	\$3.00	YES					\$ 7.21	\$ 11.48	\$ 150.00		Crona, Ala. Jessie W. Pike
Townley	0	0	2	0	0	2	0	33	81	114	\$3.00	NO	NO	NO	0	0	\$ 5.00	\$182.03	\$1,500.00		Townley, Ala. O. C. Robertson
Unity Grove	0	0	0	0	0	3	2	30			\$3.00	YES	NO	YES	0	0	\$26.50	\$ 74.14	\$ 800.00		Fernbank, Ala. Lee Estill
Dovertown	1	0	1	1	2	0	0	13	0	13	\$1.00	YES	NO	YES	0	.65	\$ 4.41	\$ 17.68	\$ 75.00	\$ 1.80	Cordova, Ala.

Minister's Report

	Sermons	Public prayer	Received in Church	Baptized	Visited sick	Funerals	Ordained deacons	Ordained ministers	Pastor of churches	Communion held	Conducted prayer m.	Attd. Sunday School	Attended League	Revivals held	Miles traveled	Money received	Churches organized	Sunday School's orgn.	Leagues organized	Marriages	Address
J. B. Bloss	150	81	32	4	76	3	4	0	5	3	14	50		5	10,595	\$453.38	1	0		1	Mt. Pleasant, Tennessee
E. W. Graves	69	100	17	4	10	3	0	0	3	1	12	35	42	0	1,800	\$115.00	0	1	0	3	Vernon, Alabama
A. J. Lambert	42	125	40	0	75	5	0	0	2	4	50	15		7	1,000	\$145.25	0	1	1	8	Cordova, Alabama
E. M. Fields	85	200			30	3					20				900	30.00		1		
P. H. Pike (partial)	10			2										1							Townley, Alabama
Robert B. Crawford	34	170	0	0	125	0	0	0	1	0	100	50		4	600	\$ 22.28			1	Samantha, Alabama
G. W. Franks	45	60	1	0	105	6						22		1	150	\$ 31.35				25	Cordova, Alabama
W. H. Ryland	93	148	23	9	87	0	3	0	1	1	28	43		4	2,630	\$126.65	0	0	1	4	Cordova, Alabama
R. V. Guyton	135	75	45	30	50	6	0	2	4	4	20	25		8	5,000	\$170.00	0	1	4	2	Toccopola, Mississippi