

MINUTES

OF THE

53rd Annual Session

OF THE

1927

SOCIAL BAND ASSOCIATION OF THE FREE WILL BAPTIST

Held with Hopewell Church, August 20, 21 and 22, 1927.
Next session will be held with Pruitt Chapel Church
on Friday night before the third Sunday in August,
1928.

ELD. W. T. SHOFFITT, Moderator,
Delaplaine, Ark.

D. C. JONES, Clerk,
Portia, Ark.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Call to order by Moderator.
2. Call for Letters from Churches.
3. Election of Moderator and Clerk.
4. Read Rules of Decorum.
5. Appointment of committees on Divine Service, Finance, Obituary, Arrangement of Business.
6. Call for Corresponding Letters.
7. Call for Petitionary Letters.
8. Unfinished Business.
9. New Business.

MINUTES

Pursuant to adjournment a goodly number of the Deacons, Ministers and Messengers composing that part of the Church of God known as Social Band Association of Freewill Baptist met with Hopewell Church, Biggers, Ark., on August 20, 1927. The annual sermon was preached by Eld. E. W. Tucker, from Matt. 28:19.

Saturday Morning Session

1. The Moderator and Clerk not being present Eld. W. T. Shoffitt was selected as Moderator and D. C. Jones, Clerk pro tem.
2. Called for letters of different churches, received 14: Cedar Ridge, Lone Oak, Clear Lake, Pleasant Grove, Pirtle, Grandview, Pruitt Chapel, New Hope, O'Kean, Stony Point, Hopewell, White Oak, New Covenant, Eureka. Right hand of fellowship was given and the delegates were seated.
3. Called for petitionary letters, received none.
4. Called for corresponding letters, received one: Cave Springs Association, Myrtle, Mo., and Eld. J. M. McGehee was given the right hand of fellowship and seated as a delegate.
5. Proceeded to regular business by electing Eld. W. T. Shoffitt, Moderator, Eld. E. W. Tucker, Assistant Moderator, D. C. Jones, Clerk, and Jasper Gates, Assistant Clerk.
6. Moderator appointed the several committees: Divine Service—C. F. Jones, J. W. Gates, B. H. Bates.
7. Committee on Finance—H. S. White, Will Manus, John Edington.
8. Committee on Obituary—Eld. E. W. Tucker, G. W. Dale, Eld. W. C. Hudson.
9. Committee on Arrangement of Business—Eld. G. W. Million, J. D. McKinney, E. A. Swift, Dave Seamons, E. Hogan.
10. Resolution No. 3 of Art. 7 of the Constitution, to be amended to give the churches power to assess their members so we can finance our denomination, was referred back to the churches for their approval or rejection.
11. Eleven o'clock service. Preaching by Eld. D. C. Jones and C. M. Kildow. Text, Eph. 6:11-19.
12. Adjourned to meet at 2 o'clock.

Saturday Evening Session

Met at 2 o'clock after singing and prayer by Eld. G. W. Million. Proceeded to regular business.

13. Moved to investigate case of Eld J. O. Hefner. Resolved that it be referred back to Pirtle, his home church, and they send Eld. E. W. Tucker to talk to him and he make his report back to the church.

14. Taking up the conduct of the ministers. All in good standing except W. S. Smith.

15. Moved that the Clerk of Sugar Tree Grove Church notify and investigate the standing of S. T. Birch.

16. Moved that we drop all ministers names from our list that we know nothing about.

17. Report of ministers. See reports.

18. Moved that the clerk of the association issue credentials to the Deacons which is ordained in the Association.

19. Moved that the Moderator and Clerk have power to confirm and write the credentials of G. W. Dale as Deacon of Pruitt Chapel church.

20. Moved that we give Eld. W. C. Hudson a letter of recommendation that he is in good standing.

21. Moved that we maintain Bro. E. Rhodes as secretary-treasurer on finance board for three years and Bro. H. C. Jolly was elected for three years in Bro. E. McElyea's place on finance board.

22. While the Committee on Finance was out we enjoyed a devotional service conducted by Eld. N. Y. Gary.

22. Moved to adjourn until 8 o'clock Monday morning.

Saturday Night Service

After singing and prayer by Bro. E. Hogan, a good devotional service was enjoyed by all, conducted by Eld. Robert Shelton. Preaching by Eld. W. T. Shoffitt, text Luke 18:39. Service was enjoyed by all rejoicing in a Savior's love.

Sunday Morning Service

The Presbytery Eld's, W. T. Shoffitt, G. W. Million, E. W. Tucker and J. A. Fender and Dave Seamons, Deacons, ordained the following: Bro. Robert Shelton to the ministry, Bro. B. H. Bates of New Hope church, Jasper Gates of Pirtle church and H. S. White and Jake Phillips of Cedar Ridge church as Deacons to their churches.

Eleven O'clock Service

Preaching by Eld. G. W. Million. Subject, "The Millennium

Reign." Services closed with everybody feeling the spirit in their midst after which a good dinner was spread which was enjoyed by all.

Sunday Evening Service

After singing and prayer by E. W. Tucker stand was filled for a short time by D. C. Jones, text, 1 John 5:7-8, St. John 13:15, after which a goodly number of good people followed the Lord's command in taking the Lord's Supper and washing the Saint's feet.

Sunday Night Service

Met back at the arbor. After singing and prayer by Eld. E. W. Tucker a good testimonial service was had, conducted by Eld. E. W. Tucker. Preaching by Eld's Robert Shelton and J. M. McGehee, from 3rd chapter of St. John.

Monday Morning Session

Pursuant to adjournment, met at 8 o'clock. After singing and prayer by Eld. G. W. Million proceeded to regular business.

23. Moved to be represented by letter and messenger to Cave Springs Association, the State Association and Pope Bayou Association. Eld. G. W. Million was elected as messenger to Cave Springs Association, Eld. E. W. Tucker was elected messenger to State Association and Eld. W. C. and Sister Hudson were elected as messengers to Pope Bayou Association.

24. Moved that the next Association be held with Pruitt Chapel Church, Light, Ark., beginning on Friday night before the third Sunday in August, 1928, and Eld. Robert Shelton preach the introductory sermon.

25. Moved that the committee on Arrangement of Business be held for the ensuing year and the Association elect one annually hereafter.

26. Moved that the form of our Associational Letter be changed so it will give the names and addresses of the deacons of each church and request the clerk of each church to write their names and addresses in their Associational Letter.

27. Moved that we have 500 Minutes printed and the Clerk distribute them to the churches according as they have paid in.

28. Committee on Finance reported and committee discharged.

29. Ministers' reports called for. See report.

30. Moved that we tender our heartfelt thanks to the good people of this community for their kindness and hospitality shown us while in their midst. May God's richest blessings abide with them.

31. Moved to adjourn to meet with Pruitt Chapel Church on Friday night before the third Sunday in August, 1928.

Eld. W. T. Shoffitt, Moderator,
Delaplaine, Ark.

D. C. Jones, Clerk,
Portia, Ark.

Resolutions

32. Resolutions passed in 1926, Association to elect a District Financial Board. Eld's G. W. Million and D. C. Jones were elected for three years, Eld. E. W. Tucker and Bro. Mack Johnson for two years and Bros. E. Rhodes and E. McElyea for one year.

33. Resolution No. 20; passed in Association in 1926, that we do not accept baptism under any other name or ceremony except the Father and Son and Holy Ghost, Matt. 28:19.

34. (Query). Is it proper for a minister to disband and reorganize a church when so called by a small minority and when they have a pastor and a regular monthly service it is improper and out of order.

35. Moved to put on a drive for \$150.00 to be turned over to the Finance to be divided in four funds as follows: \$50.00 for Educational Fund, \$50.00 Home Mission Fund, \$25.00 Orphanage Fund and \$25.00 for Ministers Disability Fund. Drive still on.

36. Move No. 21 of 1926 to bond the secretary-treasurer of the Finance Board to the amount of \$300.00.

37. Associational Letter. We, the Disciples of Christ, commonly known as Freewill Baptist, worshiping at , send greetings to Ministers, Deacons and Messengers composing Social Band Association when convened with Church. We send our beloved brothers to sit with you in your Godly deliberation with full power and authority to transact all legal business that may come before your honorable body for the good of our church and Christianity in general. Bro.

, the statement of our church is as follows:

Received by experience

by letter

by recommendation

restored

dismissed

died

paid

pastor

We have elected

as Pastors,

Deacons,

Address.

Ministers' Reports

P. M. Witcher—I haven't pastored any churches this year but have preached some at local places. Preached one funeral.

W. C. Forsyth—Traveled 150 miles, preached 200 sermons, held 4 funerals, witnessed 45 conversions, baptized 8, married 5 couples, received from Surridge \$30.00, Pleasant Hill \$5.00, Pleasant Grove none, pastored 3 churches, preached some at other places.

E. W. Tucker—Traveled 700 miles, preached 60 sermons, witnessed 15 conversions, baptized 8, married 1 couple, officiated at 6 funerals, received \$100.00.

G. W. Million—Pastored 4 churches, was out 3 months on account of sickness and bad weather, preached about every Sunday with above exception, held several funerals, received \$140.00.

D. C. Jones—Pastored 2 churches, Coffman 15 sermons, received \$15.97, Clear Lake 24 sermons, received \$17.97, witnessed 6 conversions, traveled 231 miles, officiated at 3 funerals, preached at other places 10 sermons, total received \$33.94.

W. S. Tyler—Pastored 1 church, Cedar Ridge, 18 sermons, witnessed 10 conversions, baptized 10, received \$12.00, other sermons 5.

Report of Obituary

We find that our kind and Heavenly Father has seen fit in His wisdom to call from our midst the following: Eld. B. L. Patterson, Sugartree Grove, Eld. J. F. Gates, Eureka, Bro. Bly, Stony Point, Sister Leona Hanes, O'Kean, Sister Dearlove, Eureka, Bro. Kibler Million and Sister Langston, New Hope. We extend our heartfelt sympathy to the bereaved ones. G. W. Dale, Chairman.

Messenger Enrollment

J. M. Tyler, H. S. White, Cedar Ridge.

John Edington, Ambrose Cavenar and Pearl Carter, Hopewell.

Bro. and Sister Bruce, Pleasant Grove.

Sisters Done and Manus, White Oak.

C. H. Connelly, E. Swift and Mabel Russel, O'Kean.

G. W. Dale, Pruitt Chapel.

Harmon Smith and J. W. Gates, Pirtle.

Ben Million and F. M. Sutton, New Hope.

Dan McKinney, Eureka.

Tula Jolly and Belle Cox, Grandview.

A. P. Pendergrass, Melvin Graham and James Hulvey, Stony Point.

E. Hogan, Clear Lake.

Deacons Enrollment

- Eureka—J. D. McKinney, Delaplaine R-1, Ark.
- Pruitt Chapel—G. W. Dale, Paragould R-5, Ark.; G. Tatum, Beech Grove, Ark.
- Hopewell—C. F. Jones, E. McElyea, Biggers, Ark.
- Cedar Ridge—R. S. Ward, Black Rock, Ark.; H. S. White, Jake Phillips, Noland, Ark.
- Sugartree Grove—G. W. Hopper, Poynor, Mo.
- New Hope—J. R. Hancock, David Millian, B. H. Bates, Pocahontas, Ark.
- Clear Lake—A. F. Sluder, A. J. Robins, Walnut Ridge R-2, Ark.
- Stony Point—Wiley Hawkins, Water Valley, Ark.; Dan Kirk and Olen Thompson, Pocahontas, Ark.
- Zion Hill—Dan Bates, D. M. Seamans, Pocahontas, Ark.
- Grandview—H. C. Jolly, A. R. Pride, Supply, Ark.
- Lone Oak—H. L. Webb, Charlie Tharp, Manson, Ark.; Herbert Cooper, Geo. Tyler, unknown.
- Valley Chapel—J. C. Hughes, Ravenden Springs, Ark.
- Pleasant Grove—Horace Bruce, D. H. Reagon, Hoxie, Ark.
- Liberty—J. M. Johnson, N. S. Carroll, R. M. Johnson, Delaplaine, Ark., R-1.
- New Covenant—J. A. Fender, Zack Minton, Walnut Ridge, Ark. R-3.

Ordained Ministers

D. N. King	Warm Springs, Ark.
W. T. Shoffitt	Delaplaine, Ark.
D. M. Holder	Maynard, Ark.
W. T. Sharp	Frisbee, Ark.
G. W. Million	Pocahontas, Ark.
C. M. Kildow	Hoxie, Ark.
N. Y. Gary	Torch, Mo.
D. C. Jones	Portia, Ark.
Geo. U. Weeks	Hoxie, Ark.
S. J. Birch	Unknown.
E. W. Tucker	Delaplaine, Ark.
J. O. Hefner	Imboden, Ark.
P. M. Witcher	Biggers, Ark.
W. S. Tyler	Water Valley, Ark.
W. C. Hudson	Jonesboro, Ark.
W. F. Vickery	Poynor, Mo.
W. C. Forsyth	Hoxie, Ark.

Constitution

1. This Association, when properly organized, shall consist of a moderator and a clerk, who shall be chosen by the suffrage of the members present. The duty of the moderator shall be to keep the Association in order, state questions fairly and take the vote thereon; to have the liberty of speech as other members, providing his seat be filled, to have no vote unless the Association be equally divided in which case he shall have the deciding. The duty of the clerk shall be to keep a fair record of the proceedings of the Association.

2. This Association shall be composed of ordained ministers, deacons and licentiates, together with messengers duly chosen by the several churches in our union and sent to represent them in this Association, said messengers being members of some church within this Association, whom the members judge best qualified for that purpose, who, on producing letters certifying to their appointment, shall be entitled to seats.

3. In the letters from the several churches shall be expressed their respective number of members in fellowship, and the number received, dismissed, excluded or died since the sitting of the last association and day of church meeting.

4. No query shall be received by the Association from any church unless it has been acted on in said church and cannot be settled, in which case the Association shall take up same and act upon it.

5. Every church in the Association shall be entitled to a representation of messengers not exceeding three.

6. Every motion made and seconded shall be acted upon unless withdrawn by the mover.

7. The Association shall not have the power to lord it over God's heritage so as to infringe on any of the internal rights of the churches; nevertheless we agree that the churches composing the Association shall stand in the same relation to each other in this Association that individuals do to each other in this Association; that is to say, if a church trespass against a sister church, the church injured shall try to reclaim them by Gospel steps; if they cannot be reclaimed they shall be dropped from our union.

8. We agree to do all business by a majority of the members present.

9. Any church may be admitted into this Association by letter and messenger. If upon proper examination it is found to be orthodox and orderly such admission shall be manifested by the moderator giving the right hand of fellowship to the messengers thereof.

10. This Association shall have power to sit as an advisory council, to give churches all necessary advice in matters of difficulty; to inquire into the cause why churches neglect to represent themselves in this Association; to appoint any members, by and with his or her consent to transact any business they may deem necessary; to invite brethren in the ministry to a seat with the Association; to adjourn the Association at any time and place that may be thought necessary; to exclude from his seat any member who shall not conform to the Rules of Decorum, and shall report his or their conduct to the churches from which he or they were messengers.

11. This Association possesses appellate jurisdiction in all cases of difficulty that may arise in the churches.

12. The Lord's Supper shall be administered at each annual Association.

13. Each annual Association shall be held on the 3rd Sunday in August.

Articles of Faith

1. We believe in one true and living God—the Father, the Son and Holy Ghost—and these three equal in divine essence, power and glory. John 1:1; 1 John 5:7; 1 Cor. 8:6; John 10:30.

2. We believe that the Scriptures in the Old and New Testaments are the words of God, and the only infallible rule of faith and practice. 2 Tim. 4:2; 2 Tim. 3:16.

3. We believe that God created man good and gave him holy commandments, whereby he should live holy, but man voluntarily disobeyed the commandments of God, transgressed the law and fell under the just condemnation of the same, whereby all men are sinners, not by constraint, but by choice, being partakers of the sinful nature attained by the fall. But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honor; then He by the grace of God should taste death for every man. Gen. 1:27; Gen 2:16-17; Gen. 3:6; John 3:16-17; Heb. 2:9.

4. We believe that Christ, by His death, burial and resurrection purchased our pardon and offers it freely to all men upon the conditions of repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

He now commands all men everywhere to repent, therefore look unto me and be ye saved all the ends of the earth, for I am God, and beside me there is none else. Rom. 5:6-21; Matt. 4:17; Isaiah 45:22; Heb. 11:16.

5. We believe that all adult persons must be regenerated and born of the spirit of God if they inherit eternal life. John 1:6-14; Titus 3:5; John 3:1-13; Rom. 8:9.

6. We believe that regeneration is an instantaneous renewal of the heart by the Holy Ghost whereby the penitent sinner receives a new life, becomes a child of God and is disposed to serve Him. As babies require constant food for bodily development, the new born babe in Christ requires spiritual food that he may develop by a gradual growth into full stature of Christian manhood. John 3:5; Ez. 36:26-27; Titus 3:5; Gal. 5:1-21; Eph. 2:10; Rom. 8:18; John 1:12-13; Matt. 13:21; Mark 4:26; 1 Peter 2:2.

7. We believe that the doctrine of Sanctification or Holiness as taught in the Bible applies to the soul or inner man; and to it alone, and that the sanctification of the body will not take place until the resurrection of the dead, when this mortal shall put on immortality and this incorruptible shall put on incorruption. 1 Cor. 6:11; Rom. 7:17-25; Phil. 3:21; 1 Cor. 35:54.

8. We believe that all Christians should persevere in grace, and be faithful to the end if they inherit eternal life, for blessed are they that do His Commandments that they have a right to the tree of life and enter through the gates of the city. Cor. 10:12-13; Rev. 22:14; Rom. 11:20-2; Heb. 10:26; John 15:2-6.

9. We believe in the justification of infants by the imputed righteousness of Jesus Christ in a passive state, thereby adopting them heirs to His Kingdom. Matt. 19:13-14; 8:10.

10. We believe that the visible Church of Christ is a congregation of faithful followers who have obtained fellowship with each other and have given themselves to the Lord and one another, having agreed to keep up good discipline according to the rules of the Gospel. Matt. 18:15-20.

11. We believe that the church is the family of God, the redeemed in the aggregate of Adam's race from righteous Abel to the restitution of all things of every nation, kindred, tongue and people. Matt. 16:18; Acts 2:47; Heb. 12:23; Eph. 1:22-23; Rom. 12:5; 10:17.

12. We believe that Jesus Christ is the great head of the church and the government is with the body. Eph. 5:23; Col. 1:18-21; Matt. 18:17-18.

13. We believe that baptism by immersion is the apostolic mode, even the burial of a believer in water, and that Christ, who is our life, showed this humble example to His children and bade them walk therein. Matt. 3:55-16; Matt. 28:19-20; Mark 1:8-11; Acts 8:28; Rom. 6:16.

14. We believe that Baptism, the Lord's Supper, and the washing of the Saint's feet are ordinances of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and to be continued until His second coming. Matt. 28:19; Luke 22:19-20; John 13:5.

15. We believe that only those who have obtained a living hope in the Lord Jesus Christ, have a right to baptism, and those only who have been called to God and have come under the Presbytery of Elders have a right to administer the same. Titus 1:1-16; Mark 16:16; Matt. 3:8-9; Acts 10:47; 1 Tim. 4:14-16.

16. The soul is immortal, hence does not die with the body, but immediately after death enters into a conscious state of happiness or misery, according to the spiritual character here possessed. Phil. 1:23; Luke 23:43; Rev. 6:9.

17. We believe that there will be a general universal judgment when all men shall be judged according to the deeds done in the body, whether good or bad, and that immediately thereafter the wicked shall enter into everlasting punishment, and the righteous into eternal happiness. Eccl. 3:17; 11:9; Matt. 12:36-37; 2 Thes. 1:8-9; Rev. 6:12-17; 20:12; 21:8; 14:11; Luke 16:23; 2 Cor. 5:10.

18. We believe that God in His goodness displays power of grace in a great degree in calling and qualifying His servants by the teaching of the Holy Ghost and by the instruction of His blessed words to go forth and proclaim life and salvation without price. He bids us freely to come and nothing prevents the salvation of any but their own stubborn rebellion and sinful refusal to come. Acts 9:15; 1 Tim. 4:16; 1 Cor. 1:23; 1 Tim. 1:15-16.

19. We believe in a divine call to the ministry, that the minister should heed the admonition of Paul to Timothy to study the Scriptures, that the church donate of their substance as the Lord prospers them to support of their pastors, and that ministers may have better opportunities to store their minds with that spiritual food so necessary to Christian development. To this end we recommend that each church have a finance committee of three to consist of two deacons and a clerk to collect and store such funds. 2 Tim. 2:15; 1 Cor. 16:1-2.

Rules of Decorum

1. The Association, when convened shall be opened and closed by singing and prayer.

2. Only one person shall speak at a time, who shall rise to his feet and address the moderator.

3. Each person thus speaking shall not be interrupted in speech, except by the moderator, until he gets through; nor shall the moderator interrupt him unless he breaks order.

4. The person speaking shall adhere to the question and shall in no wise cast any reflections on any person who may have spoken before him.

5. No person shall speak more than three times on the same subject without leave of the Association.

6. No member shall laugh or whisper in time of public speech.

7. Members shall address each other by the appellations of brother or brethren and sisters.

8. No member of this Association shall absent himself when the Association is sitting in conference without leave of the moderator.

9. The names of the members of the Association shall be enrolled and called over as often as the Association thinks necessary.

10. No member shall speak longer than fifteen minutes at any one time without leave of the Association.

Resolution

Be it resolved, That each church in Social Band Association take a firm stand against the teachings of Evolution and Russellism.

Rev. W. T. Shoffitt, Chairman.

Resolution

Resolved, That all ministers in Social Band Association, when receiving members into the church, insist that it is their duty to conform strictly to the rules and regulations of the Freewill Baptist church so long as they remain members of same.

Rev. W. T. Shoffitt, Chairman.

CHURCH	PASTOR	CLERK	POSTOFFICE
Pirtle		Jasper Gates	Peach Orchard, Ark.
White Oak	W. T. Sharp	Will Manus	Walnut Ridge, Ark.
Pleasant Grove	Geo. U. Weeks	Harry Reagan	Hoxie, Ark.
Eureka		Minnie Dean	
Pruitt Chapel		Sallie Hamilton	Light, Ark.
Grandview	G. W. Million	Leona Jones	Supply, Ark.
New Hope		B. H. Bates	Pocahontas, Ark.
Clear Lake	G. W. Million	Alpha East	Walnut Ridge, Ark.
Stony Point	W. T. Sharp	Susie Hulvey	Elevenpoint, Ark.
Cedar Ridge	W. S. Tyler	Minnie Phillips	Noland, Ark.
Hopewell	G. W. Million	Ollie Woods	Biggers, Ark.
New Covenant	W. T. Shoffitt	Ethel Hudson	Walnut Ridge, Ark.
Lone Oak	D. M. Holder	Mabel Tharp	Manson, Ark.
O'Kean	E. M. Tucker	C. H. Connelly	Delaplaine, Ark.

STATISTICAL TABLE

CHURCH	FINANCE			MEMBERSHIP						
	Local Minutes	State Minutes	O. & M.	Increase			Decrease			Total
				Conversion	By Recommendation	By Restoration	Death	Excluded	Letter	
Pirtle		1.25			3					22
White Oak		1.50		6						30
Pleasant Grove										35
Eureka		1.00	1.00				2			
Pruitt Chapel		1.25		4	1					24
Grandview		1.50		1						68
New Hope		1.50					2		1	50
Clear Lake		2.00	1.00		1					35
Stony Point		1.50					1			
Cedar Ridge		1.30		6	5	2				21
Hopewell		3.95	2.00					1		45
New Covenant		1.50		12		5				9
Lone Oak										
O'Kean		1.50		7		1	1	2		32
Zion Hill		.75								