

1916 1857

MINUTES

The fortieth session of the South Georgia F. W. B. Association convened with Fishing Creek Church, Pierce County, October 20 and 21, 1916.

The introductory sermon was preached by Rev. J. A. Blanton.

FRIDAY MORNING

The body was called to order by singing No. 83 in the Golden Gospel Bells and prayer by the Moderator.

The Moderator then called for the letters from the various churches.

The Moderator appointed Bros. A. J. Parker and D. W. Zorn to read the letters, and the names of the delegates were enrolled as follows:

Satilla: C. C. Quinn, M. T. Cothorn, John Ray, Quitman Hughes, ee Harrison and G. W. Harrison.

Corinth: John M. Taylor, J. A. Smart, J. M. Moore, J. H. Sutton, J. C. Sutton and H. C. Butler.

Marietta: L. V. Moore and W. E. McLean.

Sawanie: H. Mizell.

Fishing Creek: S. R. Carter, M. M. Boatwright, T. H. Smith.

Big Creek: Joe Dean and B. N. Parker.

Ebenezer: W. W. Driggers, L. M. Purcell, D. F. Blitch and J. N. Swindle.

Memorial: G. C. Carter, R. M. Carter and R. L. Davidson.

Philadelphia: S. M. Altman, E. C. Altman, N. Rodenbery and M. A. Chancey.

Glennville: D. W. Zorn.

Alabama: S. A. Brewton, J. W. Harrison, J. R. McBea, G. W. Hogart and C. B. Brewton.

Stony Hill: C. C. Anderson, Willie Rogers, H. H. Iding.

Bethel: R. N. Herrington.

Ochope: H. Thomas.

Pine Level: G. M. Brantley, John A. Tanner, G. W. Douglas, and D. T. Tanner.

Moodles Chapel: Received petitionary letter. J. Archie Carter, delegate.

By motion Bros. G. R. Sanders and J. O. Fennel was received back into the association as ordained ministers.

By motion the body voted to elect the officers by acclamation. Rev. J. A. Blanton was elected moderator; Rev. C. C. Butler, assistant moderator; W. H. DeLoach, clerk, and D. W. Zorn, treasurer.

The moderator then declared the body permanently organized.

The Moderator then called for petitionary letters, receiving one from Moodles Chapel, Tattnall County Georgia, and one from Suwannee, Ware County, Georgia. The Moderator then called for corresponding messengers and received Bro. A. J. Parker from the Chattahoochee association and Bros. M. F. Cason and S. M. Boze.

Minutes South Georgia Free Will Baptist Association

man from the Little River association, and Bros. B. F. Horn and R. G. B. Horn from the Georgia union.

By motion the body adjourned until 1:30 for preaching.

Prayer by Bro. Bozeman.

Preaching at 11 o'clock by Rev. J. O. Fennel and G. R. Sanders.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

The body was called to order as per adjournment, by singing No. 52 in Familiar songs of the Gospel.

Prayer by Rev. E. Nobles.

The Moderator appointed Rev. C. C. Butler and C. C. Quinn to assist the clerk in arranging the various committees.

The body took a thirty minutes recess for the arrangement of the committee as follows: Character and usefulness of the ministry.

Education.
Temperance.
Denominational literature.
State of churches.
Destitution.
Obituaries.
Finance.
Nominations.

The body was called to order as per adjournment and took a recess for preaching at 4 o'clock.

Preaching at 4 o'clock by Bros. S. M. Bozeman and M. F. Carson. Text, Romans 1-16. After preaching the body adjourned until 8:30 Saturday morning.

Preaching at 7 o'clock by Bros. B. F. Horn and A. J. Parker. Text Ecclesiastes 10-8.

SATURDAY MORNING SESSION

The body was called to order at 8:30 by singing No. 23 in the sparkling jewels.

Prayer by Bro. C. C. Butler.

After the roll call the Moderator called for the reports of the various committees.

Education (report received), see report character and usefulness of the ministry. Report received (see report). State of churches (report received). Denominational literature. Report received with amendment to read that we will patronize The Free Will Baptist published at Ayden, N. C. Destitution. Report received. Nominations. Report received.

By motion the body voted to spend two minutes in silent communion to God in memory of our dear beloved Brother, Dr. E. L. St. Claire.

By motion the body voted to receive the money from Newhope Piney Grove and Carters Chapel so as they can receive minutes.

The body then took a thirty minutes recess.

The body was called to order by the Moderator as per adjournment.

Minutes South Georgia Free Will Baptist Association

Temperance report received with amendment not to support any man for office that uses intoxicating liquor as a beverage for either county, state or nation.

By motion Brother S. G. Smith was placed on the superannuated list and a public collection was taken up for the superannuated preachers. By motion body then adjourned until two o'clock for preaching.

Preaching at 11 o'clock, by Bro. A. J. Parker, text Ephesians 2-8-9-10.

(Miscellaneous business).

The body was called to order as per adjournment, by singing No. 62 in the familiar songs of the Gospel.

Prayer by Bro. A. Mincey.

By motion the body voted to elect Bro. J. A. Blanton to fill the vacancy on the board of ordaining council caused by the death of Dr. E. L. St. Claire.

By motion the body voted to pay the expenses of the corresponding messengers from other associations.

By motion the body voted to send one delegate to each association, (as follows):

Rev. C. C. Butler to the Little River.

Georgia Union, J. A. Blanton, I. J. Blanton, Alternate.

Chattahoochee, C. C. Butler.

Finance report received. By motion Brother T. A. Strickland was granted the power to sell the property of Spring Grove Church and to invest the proceeds into another church house and land and the deed to be made to the trustees of the association.

By motion the body voted to stop the intruders on the Odessa church property.

Superannuated report received.

Obituaries report received. . .

By motion the body voted to empower Bro. N. Rodenbery to sell some church property and put the money in the hands of the treasurer.

By motion the body relieved Bro. B. N. Parker for remainder of the session.

By motion the body voted to pay the clerk \$10.00 for his services.

By motion the body voted to pay \$30.00 for minutes and the clerk to get them printed where ever he saw best.

By motion the body paid the Moderator \$8.15.

By motion the body voted to grant Bro. Sanders his credentials giving him new ones, replacing the last ones.

By motion the body voted to pay the clerk \$2.45 back dues.

By motion the body voted to return a vote of thanks to Fishing Creek church and the community at large for their kindness and hospitality while the body was in session.

By motion the body voted to adjourn to meet with the Glennville F. W. B. church on Thursday night before the Fourth Sunday in October, 1917.

Prayer by the Moderator.

Minutes South Georgia Free Will Baptist Association

REPORT OF COMMITTEES

Character and Usefulness of the Ministry:

We your committee, submit the following: So far as we are able to ascertain our Ministers stands above reproach. We further recommend that all ministers should abstain from the use of all intoxicating liquor.

JOHN M. TAYLOR, (Chairman).
N. RODENBERRY.
M. A. CHANCEY.
JOHN RAY.
G. W. HOGARTH.

Education:

We your committee on Education beg to make the following report: 1. We recommend that our people send their children to school so as to better prepare them for Gods service.

We recommend that they further patronize our Free Will Baptist school at Ayden, N. C., as much as possible.

M. T. COTHERN.
W. W. DRIGGERS.
W. W. BOATWRIGHT.
J. C. SUTTON.

Temperance:

We, your committee on Temperance beg leaf to make the following report: Seeing the great evil caused by intemperance and that so much crime and immorality and our women and children are made to suffer hardships and poverty, we recommend that we as Free Will Baptists do all that is in us to help the authorities of our great state to put down the making and selling of whiskey in our midst. We should look carefully to the selection of our governors and congressmen and representatives.

S. A. BREWTON.
T. H. SMITH.
R. M. CARTER.
B. F. BLITCH.
C. C. ANDERSON.
C. R. BREWTON.

Denominational Literature:

We, your committee recommend that all our churches and Sunday schools use the F. W. B. literature, and all religious papers and books that can be afforded and we leave it to the clerk as to where the minutes should be printed.

B. N. PARKER.
S. M. ALTMAN.
QUITMAN HUGHES.
JOE DEAN.
J. W. HARRISON.

State of Churches:

We, your Committee on State of Churches, beg to report as follows:

The condition of our churches are good with the exception of

Minutes South Georgia Free Will Baptist Association

Carters' Chapel, Piney Grove, New Hope, Knights' Chapel, Kites Chapel, Spring Grove. We further recommend that they send letters and money to the next association or they will be dropped from the body.

JESSIE WATSON.
H. MIZELL.
G. W. DOUGLAS.
H. THOMAS.
R. N. HERRINGTON.
G. W. HARRISSON.

Destitution:

We, your committee find that several of our churches are destitute and some of them without a pastor and we recommend that they get themselves a right in order to get a pastor so they can be represented in the next association by delegation or by letter or either, they may be dropped.

J. A. SMART.
E. C. ALTMAN.
J. R. McBEA.
L. V. MOORE.
J. H. SUTTON.
G. C. CARTER.

Obituaries:

We, your Committee on Obituaries, submit this, our report.

We find from the reading of the letters sent up by the various churches that the sad messenger has visited several of our ranks and claimed as its victims some of the household of the faithful. We bow in humble submission to the will of Him who doeth all things well. We also realize that our loving Father saw fit to call from labor to great reward one of whom we held in highest esteem on account of wonderful council and wisdom and sacrifice. Then with due reverence of the will of God, we recommend that one page of our minutes be draped in memory of our beloved Dr. E. L. St. Claire.

D. W. ZORN.
J. O. FENNEL.
I. J. BLANTON.
M. L. HARRISSON.
S. R. CARTER.

Finance:

We, the Committee on Finance, find sent from the various churches:

For minutes	\$ 43.50
For Missions	21.65
Superannuated Funds	50.35
Superannuated Fund by Public Collection	11.26

Total\$126.77

C. C. QUINN, (Chairman.)
H. C. BUTLER.

Minutes South Georgia Free Will Baptist Association

H. H. IDINGS.

Nominations:

We, your Committee, submit the following. We recommend that the next session meet with the Glennville Church, Tattnail County, Ga., commencing on Thursday night before the 4th Sunday in October, 1917. Elder J. J. Blanton to preach the introductory sermon.

L. M. PURCELL. (Chairman).
WILLIE ROGERS.
J. M. MOORE.
G. M. BRANTLEY.
G. M. HARRISSON.

SUPERANUATED FUND

Received at this session	\$50.35
On Public Collection	11.26
On Hand from Last Session	20.00

Total	\$81.61
-------	---------

DISBURSEMENTS

Paid to Bros. S. G. Smith	\$20.00
Paid to Bro. J. Q. Henderson	20.00
Paid to Bro. E. Nobles	15.90

Balance on hand	\$55.00
	\$26.61

D. W. ZORN, Treasurer.

HOME MISSION

Received at last Session 1915	\$21.45
Received this Session	21.56

Total	\$43.11
-------	---------

G. W. HARRISSON, Treasurer.
Hazlehurst, Ga., Route A.

RESOLUTIONS

For in as much as it has pleased the Almighty God to remove from our Honorable Body one of the great counsellors, the Rev. Dr. E. L. St. Claire, from labor of the South Georgia Association to his great reward.

In this act of His divine providence our hearts are saddened to realize that his great zeal for the cause has ceased.

We bow in humble submission to the will of Him who doeth all things well.

Minutes South Georgia Free Will Baptist Association

REPORT ON PREACHING

Thursday night 7:30, J. A. Blanton; Friday at 11 o'clock, J. O. Fennell; Friday at 4 o'clock, S. F. Bozeman and M. F. Cason; Friday at 7 o'clock, B. F. Horn and A. J. Parker; Saturday 11 o'clock, A. J. Parker; Saturday at 7 o'clock, C. C. Butler; Sunday at 11 o'clock, A. J. Parker.

MINISTERIAL ROLL

J. A. Blanton, Surrency, Ga.
I. J. Blanton, Surrency, Ga.
E. Nobles, Blackshear, Ga.
C. C. Butler, Alma, Ga.
J. J. Henderson, Mt. Pleasant, Ga.
D. W. Blanton, Jesup, Ga.
Peter McLean, Surrency, Ga.
J. O. Fennell, Jesup, Ga.
T. M. Carter.
C. Thomas, Glennville, Ga.
S. G. Smith, Hazlehurst, Ga.
C. C. Coursey, Lyons, Ga.
B. F. Bratcher, Bristol, Ga.
L. Herrin.
A. B. Bowen, Reidsville, Ga.
W. J. Taylor.
G. W. Jones.
G. R. Sanders, Reidsville, Ga.

RESOLUTIONS

1. The Superannuated Board shall consist of not less than three members, to be appointed by the Association annually.
2. This board shall control and dispense all money given for the maintenance of elders belonging to the South Georgia Association who have been superannuated by the body.
3. The board shall inquire into the visible means of the superannuated elders and give according to their necessities.
4. That 25 per cent of the superannuated funds be reserved as an emergency fund.
5. Resolved, That the body no longer take up a collection to pay the preachers and delegates expenses, but that the Sunday collection go into the Home Mission treasury.

CHURCH COVENANT

Having given ourselves to God through Jesus Christ, and adopted the following articles as our confession of Faith, we now give ourselves to each other by the will of God, and agree to the following Church Covenant:

1. We solemnly covenant before God that we will strive by His assisting grace to exemplify our profession by a corresponding practice. We covenant and agree as members of the church and as Christians, to watch over each other in love, for mutual

Minutes South Georgia Free Will Baptist Association

upbuilding in Gospel faith, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. To be careful of each other's reputation, to confess our faults one to another, to strengthen the feeble and kindly admonish the erring and to labor together for the building up of the church and the denomination and for the salvation of sinners.

2. We promise that we will faithfully and constantly maintain secret and family prayer and religiously instruct those under our care.

3. We will endeavor to uphold the public worship of Almighty God and ordinances of His Church, not to forsake the assembling of ourselves together; that we will cheerfully contribute of the means with which we are blessed for the support of our Pastor and other necessary expenses of the church. Any member failing to observe this covenant shall be dealt with by the Church.

4. We also promise that, unless Providentially hindered, we will attend upon public worship, the social meetings of the church and report ourselves regularly at the monthly conferences, and that we will walk in all ordinances of the Lord's House.

5. We covenant and agree that we will abstain from all vain amusements and sinful conformity to the world; that we will not traffic in the use nor furnish to others intoxicating drinks as a beverage, and that we will sustain the benevolent enterprises of our denomination and church, such as Missions, Education, Sabbath Schools, Moral Reform and all others which tend to the glory of God and to the welfare of men; and may the God of Peace sanctify us wholly and preserve us blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, that we may join the glorified around the throne of God in ascribing blessings, honor, glory and power to Him that sitteth on the throne and unto the Lamb forever. Amen.

CONSTITUTION

1. This Association shall be known as the South Georgia Free Will Baptist Association, whose duty it is to meet annually at such places as may be agreed upon at the previous session and not to adjourn finally 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 their best influence to promote all moral and benevolent means and institutions, such as Education, Sabbath Schools, Missionary Work, etc.

2. It shall be composed of the Ministers, both ordained and licensed, belonging thereto, and legal delegates from the churches composing the same.

3. Requirements of the 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 pastor, report the character and usefulness of the ministers whose membership is with them. Give name and postoffice of the Church Clerk, give the number baptised, received by letter, dismissed by letter, restored, excluded and died; also the number of members and the amount

Minutes South Georgia Free Will Baptist Association

paid Associational purposes.

4. This Association shall be considered an ecclesiastical body, and shall control all the various churches composing the same so far as Gospel order extends. Also, no houses or lands shall be sold or disposed without her consent. Each male member shall be required to pay 25 cents annually as superannuated funds, any member failing to comply with this shall be noted by the Church.

5. The officers of this Association shall be a Moderator, Assistant Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer, to be chosen by ballot.

6. Churches wishing to become members of this Association must adopt our Articles of Faith and conform to its usages.

7. Churches sending delegates to this Association shall be allowed one delegate for each ten members or fraction thereof.

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

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 but 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. 2:9; 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, 4:4, 5, 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 we 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 one 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 be preached among all nations and to every creature.—Mark 16:16; Luke 24:47; John 3:15, 17; 1 Tim. 2:4.

6. We believe no man shall suffer in hell for want of a Christ who died for him; but as the scriptures has said, for denying the Lord that brought them, because they believed not in 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;

Minutes South Georgia Free Will Baptist Association

it follows against all contradiction that all men at one time or other are found in such a capacity as that through the Grace of God they may be eternally saved.—Mark 6:6; Heb. 3:10; 1 John 5:10.

7. We believe that 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 provision 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; 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 charged themselves with their own damnation for wilfully rejecting the offers of sovereign grace.—Matt. 11:27; St. John 6:44-65; Psa. 1:1; Tit. 5:11-12; Jer. 22:29.

10. We believe that men, not considered simply as ungodly men, were of old ordained to condemnation; considered such who turn the grace of God into lasciviousness, denying the Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ who bought them, and therefore shall bring upon themselves swift destruction, but we observe that they are such the Apostles saith because they received not the love of the 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.—Judge 1:4; II Peter 2:1; II Theess. 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 person, are only subject to the first death, which was brought on them by the fall of Adam, and not that any one of them dying in that state shall suffer punishment in hell by the guilt of Adam's sin. Of such is the Kingdom of God.—I Cor. 15:32; Matt. 1:3-5; Mark 9:36-37; Matt. 19:14.

12. We believe that the good works are the fruits of 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. 13:34-35.

13. We believe that no man has any warrant in the Holy Scripture for justification before God through his own work, 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 whatsoever can or cannot come to pass upon all supposed conditions; yet as not having decreed any person to everlasting death or everlasting life, out of respect of mere

Minutes South Georgia Free Will Baptist Association

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 in teaching gospel ordinances, in believer's 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 unto 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 8:17-19-6; Luke 22:19-20; John 13:5-17; James 5-14.

16. We believe the gospel mode of baptism is by immersion and the believers are the only subjects for the baptism.—Matt. 3:16; Mark 1:9-10; Acts 3:3-29; Rom. 6:4; Cor. 2:12.

17. We believe in a general resurrection of the dead, and a final judgment at the last day.—John 5:23-29; II Cor. 5:10.

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

DECORUM

1. At the meeting of each session of the Association the officers of the preceding session shall preside until their successor shall be known.

2. At each session and previous to proceeding to business the names of the ministers and delegates shall be called.

3. At the close of each session the entire proceeding 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 which several motions shall be preferred in order in which they are stated.

8. Nominations shall be made by the Moderator of the Association or whoever he may appoint.

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

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

11. The Association has a right to decide what matter shall be admitted to its consideration.

12. This Decorum may be amended at any session of the Association by a majority vote.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. The body shall be opened and closed with prayer.

2. Call for church letters and have them read and the names

Minutes South Georgia Free Will Baptist Association

of the Ministers and Delegates enrolled.

3. Elect Moderator, Assistant Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer, by ballot.

4. Call for petitionary letters.

5. Invite visiting brethren to seats with us.

6. Call for corresponding messengers.

7. Appointment of several committees.

8. Unfinished business.

9. Report of committees.

10. Miscellaneous business.

11. Adjournment.