MINUTES

The forty-first session of the South Georgia Free Will Baptist Association convened with the Glenville Free Will Baptist church October 26 and 27, 1917.

Introductory sermon was preached on Thursday night by Rev. J. O. Fennell. Text, I John 3-1.

FRIDAY MORNING SESSION.

The body was called to order by the Moderator,, and, after a brief but very interesting talk by the Moderator, the session was opened by singing No. 221, in the Church Songs. Prayer by the Moderator.

The Moderator then appointed a temporary preaching committee, to-wit: Brothers W. B. Surrency, B. A. Altman and J. W. Harrison.

The Moderator called for the letters from the various churches.

The Modertor appointed Brothers M. A. Woodard and J. R. DeLoach to read the letters:

Stony Hill-C. C. Anderson, W. H. Anderson and T. J. Durrence.

Moodies' Chapel-By letter.

Philadelphia-B. A. Altman, J. J. Mattox and J. W. Colson.

Glenville—W. B. Surrency, J. R. DeLoach, M. S. Lewis, J. D. DeLoaoch, C. S. Driggers, H. T. Bostick and R. A. Yarborough.

New Hope-W. M. Edinfield, J. E. Edinfield, W. G. Freeman, Calder Edinfield and R. P. Anderson.

Ebenezer-J. L. Wilkerson, J. A. Baxter, H. N. Baxter and B. F. Blitch.

Corinth-M. Bell.

Marietta—W. E. McLean, L. V. Moore, J. H. McLean, L. S. Sikes and W. M. Cobb.

Sawanie-M. L. Manor.

Satilla-C. C. Quinn, Lee Harrison and John Ray.

Ohoopee—By letter.

Fishing Creek—T. H. Smith, A. W. Bratcher and Sister Sarah Smith.

Memorial-By letter.

Knight's Chapel-J. K. McLamb.

Alabaha-D. L. Sapp and J. W. Harrison.

Piney Grove—Fulton Thomas.

Big Creek---W. H. Carter, Willie Hires, J. L. Turner and B. N. Parker.

By motion, Brother W. E. McLean was excused for the remainder of the session.

By motion the Moderator was made a corresponding messenger from this association to the Chattahoochee, Midway, Georgia Union, Little River and Ogeechee associations.

By motion the body voted to change the word "we" to "he" in the fourth Article of Faith.

The superannuated board made their report, which was received.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS. BROTHER J. A. BLANTON.

Chattahoochee, which convenes Thursday night before the first Sunday in October, 1918; Midway, Georgia Union, Little River, Ogeechee.

By motion the Moderator of this association was appointed to be corresponding delegate to all of these associations.

By motion the body voted to change the word "we" to the word "he" in the four Articles of Faith.

The board of the superannuated fund made their report, which was received.

By motion the association voted to table the question of changing the superannuated fund until the next association, which shall be disposed of finally.

Treasurer's report received.

By motion the body voted to pay to Rev. J. O. Fennel 35 per cent of what is in the Home Mission treasurer to be used in building a new church at the old Hall's Chapel, to be paid when called for.

Home Mission report received.

By motion, and by his request, the body relieved Brother G. W. Harrison as treasurer of the Home Mission board and put Brother D. W. Zorn in as treasurer.

By motion the body appropriated \$50.00 for minutes.

By motion the body voted to pay the clerk \$15.00 for his service.

By motion the body voted to pay the Moderator \$10.00.

By motion the body voted to adjourn to meet with Marietta church, in Toombs county, on Thursday night before the fourth Sunday in October, 1918.

Prayer by Moderator,

WILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES.

Education:

We, your committee on Education, wish to submit this, our report: We find that our denomination, as a whole, are not putting forth the efforts they should in education, and we would urge them to look well to the rising generation in this respect, and any brother who desires to enter the minitary we recommend that he spend at least two years in our school at Ayden, N. C., or some other school of higher education. Respectfully submitted,

W. B. SURRENCY.
C. C. ANDERSON
J. K. McLAMB.
J. W. HARRISON.
WILLIE HIRES.

Temperance:

We, your committee on Temperance, beg leave to submit the following report: Knowing the destructive and damning effects caused by the use of intoxicating drinks—it destroys the happiness of homes, breaks innocent and trusting hearts, it brings shame on the church, prostitutes humanity, dihonors God and damns millions of immortal souls—therefore, we beg that our beloved Free Will Baptists totaly abstain from the use of the deadly drink, that deadens, debauches and damns the noble impulses of humanity and that as a church we join all our forces and exercise all our powers to suppress the use of it and thereby stop its destructive effects, and that our preachers earnestly and forcefully condemn it from the stand.

J. D. DeLOACH.

H. N. BAXTER.

R. A. YARBOROUGH.

J. E. EDINFIELD.

A. W. BRATCHER.

Denominational Literature:

We, your committee on Denominational Literature, beg leave to submit this, our report: As we see that oud country is being floated with all manner of trashy literature, we recommend that our people abstain from such stuff by using the best literature obtainable in our homes. We further recommend that all of our Sunday schools so far as practical use our own literature, together with the F. W. B. paper, published at Ayden, N. C. Respectfully submitted.

D. W. ZORN.

J. J. MATTOX.

B. F. BLITCH.
W. M. COBB.
M. BELL.
LEE HARRISON.

State of Churches:

We, the committee on Condition of Church, beg leave to submit the following report: We find from best information that all churches are in very good condition except the following: We find that New Hope church is not in a prosperous condition and ask that this association investigate the matter. We also find that Brother T. G. Crosby is at this association with charges preferred against Fishing Creek church. We also find from the reading of various letters of the churches of this association it is in better spiritual and financial condition, but still there is room for improvement. We also recommend further that all churches hereafter come up with all funds, as we find that some churches failed to bring any Home Missions this time.

S. A. BREWTON.

M. S. Lewis.

W. G. FREEMAN.

J. K. SPELL.

L. V. MOORE.

T. H. SMITH.

Destitution:

We, your committee, find one church not represented in this association. We recommend that the Moderator visit Carter's Chapel next fifth Sunday after this session, that he may help them get in order to be represented in our next association.

G. W. HARRISON.
J. W. COLSON,
COLLIE EDENFIELD.
B. N. PARKER.
W. H. HAND.

JOHN RAY.

Character and Usefulness of the Ministry:

We, your committee, beg leave to report that our preachers are generally earnest workers, and doing all they can to win souls for the Master, while others are very careless and unconcerned, finding fault where they ought to be preaching the gospel, and, while the destitute churches are calling for help, they are idling away their time, and we recommend that the body look well to

this and let those that we have harnessed work or get out of the gear.

W. E. McLEAN.

P. J. DURRENCE.

H. T. BOSTIC.

L. S. SIKES.

Obituaries:

We find from the reading of letters sent up from the various churches that the death angel has visited several of them and took from their midst some of their beloved members, and among them one of our beloved preachers, D. W. Blanton, and we recommend that one page of our minutes be draped in memory of him.

C. C. QUINN.

SISTER SARAH SMITH.

J. H. McLEAN.

W. H. ANDERSON.

C. S. DRIGGERS.

H. T. BASTIC.

EPHRAM STEEDLEY.

Finance:

We, your committee, submit the following report: From the	,
various churches we find sent in:	
For associational purposes\$ 79.15	;
Superannuated funds	;
Home Mission 43.69)
	-
Total\$193.40)

J. A. BAXTER.

T. F. JOHNSON.

FELTON THOMAS.

D. L. SAPP.

J. R. DELOACH.

Nominations:

We, your committee, submit the following: We recommend that the next session of this body meet with Marietta church, Toombs county, Georgia, commencing on Thursday night before the fourth Sunday in October, 1918, Elder J. O. Fennel to preach the introductory sermon. Delegates to be met at Lyons, Ga.

J. R. JOHNSON.

M. L. MANOR.

R. P. ANDERSON.

J. L. WILKERSON.

MINISTERIAL CALL.

- J. A. Blanton, Surrency, Ga.
- /I. J. Blanton, Surrency, Ga.
- E. Nobles, Blackshear, Ga.
- C. C. Butler, Alma, Ga.
- J. Q. Henderson, Mt. Pleasant, Ga.

Peter McLean, Glennville, Ga.

- J. O. Fennel, Jesup, Ga.
- C. Thomas, Glennville, Ga.
- S. G. Smith, Hazlehurst, Ga.
- C. C. Coursey, Lyons, Ga.
- B. F. Bratcher, Bristol, Ga.
- S. Herrin, Jesup, Ga.
- A. B. Bowen, Reidsville, Ga.
- W. J. Taylor.
- G. W. Jones.
- G. R. Sanders.

Licentiates-L. Crosby, A. L. Thornton, B. A. Altman, T. B. Jones.

Those Present at this Session—J. A. Blanton, Peter McLean. J. O. Fennel, C. Thomas, C. C. Coursey, S. Herrin, A. B. Bowen, W. J. Taylor, G. W. Jones, G. R. Sanders.

Licentiates—L. Crosby, A. L. Thornton, B. A. Altman, T. B. Jones.

RESOLUTIONS.

- 1. The Superanuated 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 superanuated by the body.
- 3. The board shall inquire into the visible means of the superanuated elders and give according to their necessities.
- 4. That 25 per cent of the superanuated funds be reserved as an emregency 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 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 heverage, and that we will sustain the benevolent enterprises of our demoination 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

belevolent 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 paid Associational purposes.
- 4. This Association shall be considered an ecclestical 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 of without her consent. Each male member shall be required to pay 25 cents annually as superanuated 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 the voluntary, 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 repentence 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.
- 5. 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, 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 Chost, 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 biters 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. 2:9-1.

- 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 forseen 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 choice, farther than he hath appointed the godly unto life, and the ungodly who dies in sin unto death.—Heb. 4:13: Prov. 8:22-31; Matt. 25:31-46.
- 15. We believe in teaching gospel ordnances, in believer's baptism, laying on the hands, receiving of the sacrament in bread and wine, washing the saint's 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 5:28-29; 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 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.

STATISTICAL TABLE

CHURCHES AND COUNTIES. Alahaha—Pierce	PASTORS.	CLERKS AND POSTOFFICE.		Baptized.	Received by letter. Rec'd by Con. of Faith.	Dismissed by letter.	Expelled.	Restored.	Vumber of members.	Meeting days.	Pastors' salary. Value of Church property.
Alabaha—Pierce Bethel—Appling. Big Creek—Bacon Corinth—Pierce. Carter's Chapel—Appling.	F. Bratcher	Bertie Jones, Alma, G M. N. Steedley, Bookis	a	6 2 3 0 5 4 3 2	2 0 0 2 4 5 2 0	$\left egin{array}{c c}2\\2\\0\\1\end{array}\right $	8 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0 1 0 1	55 53 64	3rd 1st 3rd	\$107.15 \$500.00 25.50 62.65 45.25 550.00
Ebenezer—Tattnall Fishing Creek—Pierce Glenville—Tatnall Knight's Chapel—Liberty Memorial—Appling Marietta—Toombs Mariana—Bacon Moodies' Chapel—Tattnall	F. Bratcher 7 A. Blanton 7 B. Bowen 1 O. Fennel 7 C. Coursey [C. Butler J	J. R. DeLoach, Glenny I. W. Murray, Ludowid W. H. Gouge, Surrenc L. V. Moore, Lyons, G. Jesse Watson, Alma, (ille, Ga ci, Ga y, Ga 14	$egin{array}{c c c} 2 & & 0 \ 3 & & 1 \ 1 & & 0 \ 4 & & 0 \ 1 & & 6 \ \end{array}$	$egin{array}{c c c} 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{array}$	$\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$	4 0 8 0 1	0 0	158 50	2nd 2nd 1st	200.00 1000.00 66.95 300.00 157.00 1000.00 9.00 58.20 37.25 500.00
New Hope—Wayne	F. Bratcher J. Blanton J.	R. A. Harrelson. Elza G. M. Brantley, Rockin I. A. Tuton. Bristol. G	gham, Ga	$egin{array}{c c} 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 3 \end{array}$	$egin{array}{c c} 0 & 0 \\ \hline 0 & 1 \\ \hline \end{array}$		5 0	$egin{array}{c c c} 0 & 1 & 1 \ 0 & 1 & 1 \ 1 & 1 & 1 \end{array}$	62 89	1st 3rd	56.75 80.45 1000.00
Philadelphia—Charlton J. Satilla—Appling J. Stoney Hill—Tatinall A. Suwannoe—Ware I.	A. Blanton C. D. Emanuel	J. W. Colson. Folkstor C. C. Lunn, Hazlehur Villie Rogers. Glenny	1. Ga	3 0 5 1	$egin{array}{ c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c$	0	6 0 :	$\begin{array}{c c}2&1\\0&1\end{array}$	156	1st 4th 3rd 2nd	80.45 550.00 104.10 1250.00 42.00 58.00