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MINUTES of the Forty-second
Annual Session of the South
Georgia Free Will
Baptist Association

Convened with Marietta
Church, Toombs County,
Georgia, October
24-25, 1918

NEXT SESSION WILL MEET WITH OUR
FIFTH CHURCH, PIERCE COUNTY, GEOR-
GIA COMMENCING THURSDAY BEFORE
THE FORTYTH SUNDAY IN OCTOBER, 1919

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FROM THE BOARD OF THE

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MINUTES

The forty-second session of the South Georgia Free Will Baptist Association convened with Marietta Church, Toombs, County, Georgia, October, 24-25, 1918.

The introductory sermon was preached on Thursday night by Rev. C. Thomas.

FRIDAY MORNING

The body was called to order at 9:30 o'clock by singing No. 150 in Shining for Jesus.

Prayer by Moderator.

The move called for the letters from the various churches.

Letters read and the names of delegates enrolled as follows:

Pine Level—D. L. Parker.

Alabama—J. W. Harrison, J. R. McBea.

Ochopee—K. H. Bennett.

Corinth—J. M. Moore, M. Bell.

Stony Hill—C. C. Anderson, Willie Rogers.

Mariana—By letter.

New Hope—J. C. Edenfield.

Spring Grove—By letter.

Memorial—G. C. Carter.

Fishing Creek—T. H. Smith, Sister Sarah Smith, M. M. Boatwright.

Big Creek—W. H. Carter.

Satilla—G. W. Harrison, W. C. Ellis, T. E. Harrison.

Glennville—C. S. Driggers, D. W. Zorn, Sister Sula Zorn.

Marietta—W. E. McLean, S. H. Wade, J. H. McLean.

Ebenezer—L. M. Purcell, H. N. Baxter.

Knights Chapel—J. K. McLamb.

Oak Grove—S. T. Stanfield, Lawton McLean.

Philadelphia—By letter.

WILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

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The next business was the election of officers which was voted to elect by acclamation:

Rev. J. A. Blanton, Moderator.

Rev. C. C. Butler, Assistant Moderator.

Rev. W. H. D'Loach, Clerk.

Rev. D. W. Zorn, Treasurer.

The body was declared permanently organized.

Petitionary letters were called for and received one from Oak Grove Church. The letter was read and received..

The Moderator then called for corresponding messengers and received Bros. W. T. Rustin, and N. H. Parish, from the Georgia Union and Bro. J. H. Mosley, from the Ogeechee.

The Moderator extended the right-hand of fellowship to the visiting brethren and gave them a seat with us in the body.

The body adjourned until 1:30 for preaching.

Prayer by Bro. J. K. McLamb.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON

The body was called to order as per adjournment.

Prayer by J. W. Harrison.

The unfinished business from last session was taken up and by the vote of the body the superannuated funds stand as they are recorded in the minutes.

By motion the committee that was appointed to visit Fishing Creek and New Hope churches was discharged, and Fishing Creek and Pine Grove stand as they are unless some other trouble arises.

It was moved and carried to appoint a committee on the support of the ministry.

The body adjourned for 30 minutes for the arranging of the various committees as follows

Education, Temperance, Denominational Literature, State of Churches, Character and Usefulness of the Ministry, Destitution, Obituaries, Finance, Nominations, Union Meetings, Support of the Ministry.

The body adjourned until Saturday morning, 8:30 o'clock.

Prayer by Bro. J. M. Moore.

SATURDAY MORNING

The body was called to order by singing No. 176 in Shining for Jesus.

Prayer by Bro. W. T. Rustin.

After the roll call the body took 15 minutes' recess for the committee to complete their reports.

The body was called to order as per adjournment.

The Moderator then called for the reports of the committee.

The business session was moved to the school house for preaching at the church by Rev. J. A. Blanton, on account of the Clerk having to assist the Finance Committee in their report. The body adjourned for dinner.

Benediction by Rev. S. Herring.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON

The body was called to order by singing No. 174 in Shining for Jesus.

Prayer by Bro. H.N. Baxter.

The Moderator called for the reports of the committee.

Education received and adopted.

Temperance received and adopted.

Denominational Literature received and adopted.

State of Churches received and adopted.

Character and Usefulness of the Ministry received and adopted.

Destitution received and adopted.

Obituaries received and adopted.

Finance received and adopted.

Nominations received and adopted.

Union Meetings received and adopted.

Support of the Ministry received and adopted.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

The Moderator then called for volunteers to go to the sister associations as corresponding messengers.

Rev. C. C. Butler, to the Georgia Union.

Rev. A. L. Thornton, Little River.

Rev. N. H. Parish was appointed to represent us in the Midway Association.

Rev. J. A. Blanton, to the Chattahoochee.

Rev. C. Thomas, to the Ogeechee.

By motion the body voted to pay the Clerk \$50.00, to have minutes printed and \$15.00 for his services.

By motion the body voted to pay Bro. J. K. McLamb \$15.00 as reimbursement from Knight Chapel Church from the Home Mission Fund.

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

To Bro. W. T. Rustin, \$6.45.

To Bro. N. H. Parish, \$11.63.

By motion the body voted to pay Bro. C. C. Butler \$41.00, the balance due on Mariana Church at Alma, Ga., from the Home Mission Fund.

By motion the body voted to pay Bro. J. A. Blanton, Moderator, \$15.00, and the public made it \$25.00.

Moved and carried that Rev. C. C. Butler be released as trustee of Ayden Seminary, of Ayden, N. C.

Moved and carried that Rev. E. B. Joyner's name be enrolled on the ministerial roll.

By motion the body voted a resolution of thanks to Marietta Church and the community at large for their kindness and hospitality to us through this session.

By motion the body voted to adjourn to meet with Corinth Church, Pierce county, on Thursday night before the fourth Sunday in October, 1919. Delegates to be met at Alma on the A. B. & A., and at Blackshear on the A. C. L. The body adjourned by singing "God Be With You 'Till We Meet Again." Prayer by Bro. Dennis Moore.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES.**EDUCATION.**

We, your Committee on Education, beg leave to submit the following:

1. As a means of spiritual education we recommend that our people read God's Holy Word, our Constitution, church covenant and religious papers, especially the Free Will Baptist, published at Ayden, N. C.

2. We urgently recommend our people to exercise every means possible to give their children at least a common school education, and insist upon our teachers of public schools reading a portion of God's Word each day in the opening of the schools.

3. As a means of spiritual education we highly recommend family prayer in every home.

H. N. BAXTER,
J. W. HARRISON,
K. H. BERNETT.

TEMPERANCE.

We, your Committee on Temperance, make this our report:

We earnestly ask that all of our members abstain from all intoxicating drinks as a beverage, it being the cause of many ruined homes, causes innocent wives and children to suffer, and leads many a soul to everlasting ruin, and we ask that all our members take a stand against it.

S. HERRING,
M. BELL,
J. R. McBEA.

DENOMINATIONAL LITERATURE.

We, your Committee, beg leave to submit this, our report:

We recommend that our people abstain from this trashy literature, and use the very best literature that can be obtained in our homes, churches and Sunday schools, and that we use our own literature published at Ayden, N. C.

Respectfully submitted,

T. H. SMITH,
MRS. T. H. SMITH,
MRS. D. W. ZORN,

STATE OF CHURCHES.

We find that all our churches are in orderly condition except that the action of this body in dropping the matter pending between Fishing Creek and Pine Grove, does not give satisfaction to Fishing Creek. We feel that this body should make some better disposition of same.

J. K. McLAMB,
J. H. McLEAN,
S. H. WADE.

Moved and carried that Pine Grove Church withdraw fellowship from Bro. T. G. Crosby until Bro. Crosby gets matters adjusted between himself and Fishing Creek Church.

CHARACTER AND USEFULNESS OF THE MINISTRY.

We, your Committee, beg to submit this, our report:

Some of our preachers are generally earnest workers, while others are not doing what they could do to win souls for the Master, and find that Bro. A. B. Bowen, according to report, is very negligent in his ministerial work, and we recommend that all able ministers report at each session of the association.

L. M. PURCELL,
T. H. SMITH,
E. L. PARKER.

DESTITUTION.

We, your Committee find four churches not represented in this association. We recommend that this session investigate this matter and find out why they failed to be represented. Churches named as follows: Philadelphia, Suwanee, Moodies' Chapel, Carter's Chapel.

M. M. BOATWRIGHT,
G. C. CARTER,
J. C. EDENFIELD.

P. S.—I have in my possession Philadelphia's letter, and the reason they was not represented was on account of influenza.

W. H. DeLOACH, Clerk.

OBITUARIES.

We, your Committee, make this our report:

We are thankful to note that the Lord has not called away any of our ministers or prominent members of our association as far as we know.

S. T. STANFIELD,
LAWTON McLEAN,
C. C. ANDERSON.

FINANCE.

We, your Committee on Finance, submit the following report:
We find sent up from the various churches:

For Minutes	\$70.50
For Superannuated Funds	54.70
For Home Missions	53.62
Corresponding Messengers Expenses	18.75
Total	\$197.57

J. W. HARRISON,
WILLIE ROGERS,
H. N. BAXTER.

NOMINATIONS.

We, your committee, submit the following:

We recommend that the next session meet with Corinth Church, Bacon county, Ga., commencing on Thursday night before the fourth Sunday in October, 1919, Elder S. Herring to preach the introductory sermon.

Delegates coming from the East and West will be met at Blackshear, Ga.

J. M. MOORE,
C. C. ANDERSON,
C. S. DRIGGERS,
T. E. HARRISON,
W. H. CARTER.

UNION MEETINGS.

We, your Committee, beg leave to submit this, our report:

We recommend that we hold two union meetings the next year. The first to be held at Alabama Church, Pierce county, Ga., commencing on Friday before the fifth Sunday in March. Delegates to be met at Blackshear, Ga.

And the second with the Glenville Church, commencing on Friday before the fifth Sunday in June.

C. S. DRIGGERS,
G. W. JONES,
A. L. THORNTON,

SUPPORT OF THE MINISTRY.

We, your Committee on Support of the Ministry, beg leave to submit the following report:

1st. We find that very few of our churches are giving our ministers as liberal support as they should. As we are all aware

that ours is an evangelical denomination, the usefulness of our ministry depends largely upon pastoral support in a financial way.

2nd. We recommend that our churches prove their love for our ministry by a more liberal contribution of their means to their support.

G. W. HARRISON,
W. C. ELLIS,
L. M. PURCELL.

REPORT ON SUPERANNUATED FUNDS.

From Last Session	\$37.16
At This Session	54.70
Total	\$91.86

Disbursements.

G. Q. Henderson	\$20.00
S. G. Smith	\$15.00
E. Nobles	20.00
Total	\$55.00
Balance	\$36.86

HOME MISSIONS.

From Last Session	\$40.43
This Session	53.62
Total	\$94.05

Disbursements.

To C. C. Butler	\$41.00
To J. K. McLamb	15.00
Total	\$56.00
Balance	\$38.05

TREASURER'S REPORT.

From Last Session	\$14.15
At This Session	70.50
Total	\$84.65

Disbursements.

For Minutes	\$50.00
To Moderator	15.00
To Clerk	15.00
Total	\$80.00
Balance	\$ 4.65
For Corresponding Messengers	\$18.75

Disbursements.

W. T. Rustin	\$ 6.45
N. H. Parish	11.63
Total	\$18.08
Balance	\$.65

D. W. ZORN, Treas.

REPORT ON PREACHING.

Thursday night, C. Thomas.
 Friday at 11 o'clock, S. Herring.
 Friday night, 7:30, N. H. Parish.
 Saturday 11 o'clock, J. A. Blanton.
 Saturday night, 7:30, G. W. Jones.
 Sunday, 11 o'clock, C. C. Butler.

W. E. McLEAN, Chairman.

MINISTERIAL ROLL.

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	
J. O. Fennel	Jesup, Ga.
C. Thomas	Glenville, 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	Hazlehurst, Ga.

E. B. Joyner	Alma, Ga.
G. R. Sanders	
A. L. Thornton	

Licentiates.

L. Crosby.

B. A. Altman.

Those present at this session:

J. A. Blanton, C. C. Butler, C. C. Coursey, G. W. Jones, C. Thomas, A. L. Thornton, S. Herrin.

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 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 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 denominations 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 baptized, 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 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 of without her consent. Each male member shall be required to pay 25 cents annually as superannuated funds, and 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 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 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 he preached among all nations and to every creature.—Mark 10:16; Luke 24:47; John 3:15; 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, 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 charge 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; considering 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 1:14; Peter 2:1; II Thees. 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 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 choice, farther than he hath appointed the godly unto life, and the ungodly who dies in sin unto death.—Heb. 4:13; Prov. 8:22-11; 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 saint's feet, anointing the sick with oil in the name of the Lord, fasting, praying, 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. 23:26.

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.

