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# MINUTES

—OF THE—

SIXTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

## Southeastern Free Will Baptist Association

WHICH CONVENED WITH

SARDIS CHURCH

Friday Before the Third Sunday

In October, 1946.

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### OFFICERS

REV. D. F. PELT ..... MODERATOR

C. A. ARNOLD ..... CLERK

J. L. STOKES ..... TREASURER



### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

J. H. Oates, C. A. Arnold, J. H. Garner, Cleveland Stanley.

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The next session will convene with Union Grove Church,  
Henry County, Alabama, on Friday before the third Sunday in  
October, 1947.





## FREE WILL BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE

*Presented By*

the daughters of

Rev. G. W. Million

in his memory

### ORDER OF BUSINESS

#### Friday Morning

- 10:00—Devotional .....Rev. McDuffie  
10:20—Welcome Address .....C. A. Arnold  
10:30—Response .....Rev. T. B. Melette  
10:40—Moderator's Address .....Rev. D. F. Pelt  
11:00—Song Service led by Long Stokes.  
11:15—Sermon .....Rev. Rufus Hyman  
12:00—Lunch.  
1:00—Devotional .....Rev. John Barnes  
1:30—Call for letters and seating delegates.  
2:00—Call for Corresponding Delegates.  
2:15—Appointing special committees.  
2:25—Temperance Report .....J. H. Oates  
2:40—Sermon .....Rev. W. T. Wiley  
3:20—Assignment of homes by Committees. Adjournment.



### ORDER OF BUSINESS

#### Saturday Morning

- 9:00—Devotional .....Rev. George Nobles  
9:15—Song Services led by R. C. Stokes.  
9:30—Renew Call for Delegates.  
10:00—Report on League .....Mrs. Lottie Wood White.  
10:15—Report on S. S. ....Mrs. Lucille H. Bodiford.  
10:30—Report on Obituaries .....Mrs. Clara Belcher.  
10:45—Report on Orphanage .....Rev. K. V. Shutes.  
11:05—Singing by Choir.  
11:15—Sermon .....Rev. J. R. Davidson  
12:00—Lunch.  
1:00—Devotional to be supplied.  
1:25 Sermon .....Rev. Leroy Knighten  
2:00—Report of Committees.  
2:30—Miscellaneous Business. Final Adjournment.



## MINUTES

### Of The Southeastern Free Will Baptist Association which met in its Sixty-Eighth Annual Session with Sardis Church In Barbour County, Alabama.

After prayer by brother W. T. Wiley, Knighten and Shutes the introductory sermon was preached by Brother G. W. Nobles, text Ezekiel's 1st chapter, "Vision of a Man a Lion, an Ox and an Eagle," which was a message of inspiration to all present.

An intermission of one hour was given during which a fine dinner was enjoyed by all present. The Moderator appointed the following: Committees on Finance, Sardis delegates; Committee on Obituaries, Mt. Zion delegates; Committee on Resolutions, Union delegates; Committee on Nominations, Friendship delegates.

### FRIDAY AFTERNOON

After 3, songs led by Brother Knighten and a few well chosen remarks by the Moderator, the devotional was given by Brother Leroy Knighten. The Moderator then declared the house ready for business. Called for letters from the churches of the Association. Letters were read by Brother T. B. Mellett and Sister Stanley. On motion letters were received and delegates seated on motion.

A Clerk was elected which resulted in selection of C. A. Arnold.

Called for petitionary letters. A letter was presented by Homes Church on the road between Clio and Arton asking for membership in this Association. Said letter was read and church was received into fellowship and delegates seated.

Called for Corresponding Delegates: Brother W. T. Wiley, Brother T. B. Mellett, Brother J. R. Tedder, Brother McDuffie from Midway of Georgia. Brother K. V. Shutes from Progressive; Brother G. W. Nobles and wife from

State Line; Brother Leroy Knighten from Chattahoochee; Brother Rufus Hyman from Salem. Brother K. V. Shutes then gave a report of the Children's Home in N. W. Ala. which was very encouraging. A donation of \$45.43 was given by the delegates. Brother W. T. Wiley then brought a very spiritual message which was a blessing to many. The Association was dismissed by prayer of the Moderator at 3:30 P. M. to resume labour Saturday A. M. at 10

### SATURDAY MORNING

Singing led by Brother Long Stokes. Devotional service by Brother Hyman which was very instructive and spiritual. The Moderator then renewed the call for delegates bringing letters which was not present yesterday. Same read by Brothers J. H. Oates and Rufus Hyman and received and Delegates seated.

Renewed call for visiting delegates, none. Brother Hyman then read By Laws and Constitution of the Florida State Association.

Call for report on Resolutions, report as follows: that the Moderator appoint someone to lecture on Temperance, League and S. S. also appoint committees to serve for the next Association. The Association then adjourned for preaching. Brother John Golden brought a very inspiring message. Dismissed one hour and a sumptuous dinner was enjoyed by all present.

### SATURDAY AFTERNOON

Called to order by song led by Brother Long Stokes. Devotional by Brother Pelt.

Brother Hyman gave an able discussion on Temperance, especially the arch enemy of Christianity, Alcohol Beverage.

Called for report on Nominations, report adopted as follows: We nominate Union for next session and Brother McDuffie to preach introductory.

Called for committee on Finance, report as follows: We find for all purposes one hundred and one and 50 c, \$101.50.



Called for discussion S. S. C. A. Arnold responded.

Report on Treasurer as follows:

Last session .....	\$150.41
Balance .....	51.54
Total .....	201.95
Expenses .....	110.00
Balance .....	51.54
This session .....	101.50
Total .....	193.45

Motion carried to sell James Chapel church and the proceeds to be donated to Homes New Church.

Called for miscellaneous business motion made and carried to elect corresponding delegates to sister Association Brother J. E. Mallory. Brother John Golden to Chatahoochee. Brother Daniel Pelt to Salem. Brother Chester Matthews and wife to State Line near Ashford, Ala.

Motion the Moderator appointed delegates to the Florida State Association, Brother Long Stokes, J. H. Oates, Chester Matthews, Mrs. Eloise Commanders and J. E. Mallory. Motion to pay Clerk \$15 and Moderator \$10.

Motion carried the Budget Plan be adopted in our churches as follows: 50 per cent for pastors, 10 per cent local, 10 per cent education, 20 per cent missions, 10 per cent Building Fund.

Motion carried the Clerk have the Minutes printed and the Treasurer pay the bill.

Motion that we elect the same officers except Clerk by acclamation.

Sister Lucile Bodiford was elected Clerk.

On motion that we give a rising vote of thanks to Sardis church and community for their kind hospitality shown us during this session. We then took the parting hand till we meet with Union Grove church on Friday before the third Sunday in October in 1947. This closed one of the most harmonious sessions in the history of the Association.

D. F. PELT, Moderator  
C. A. ARNOLD, Clerk

## REPORT ON OBITUARIES

With a sad and aching heart I attempt to write a few words in memory of a dear loved one and Christian sister, Mrs. Pauline Johnson who departed this life July 5, 1946. She was born December 5, 1919. She was an active member of Sardis church and was loved by we who knew her.

Besides her husband she leaves her mother, Mrs. W. A. Hatfield, two brothers, Roy and Horace Hatfield all of Eufaula, Alabama. She leaves a host of relatives and friends. We realize that our loss is eternal gain.

As we turn from the grave of those that we love, we turn with sweet hope of meeting them again in the sweet bye and bye in that place of eternal joy.

We loved her, yes, we loved her, but the angels loved her more and they have sweetly called her to yonder's shining shore. —Written by her neice, **Annie Britt Hatfield.**



CHURCHES	PASTORS AND POST OFFICES	CLERKS AND POST OFFICES	DELEGATES	Enrolled in S. S.	Pastor's Salary	Restored	Dismissed by Letter	Received by Letter	Received on Confession	Died	Present Membership	Paid Association	Paid Minutes	Other
Chester Chapel	J. H. Golden, Eufaula	Mrs. M. G. Vinson, Abbeville	J. C. Calhoun, Lodel Vinson, Lottie Hudspeth	32	100.00				5	1	40	2.00	1.50	50.00
Evergreen	Rufus Hyman, Slocomb	J. D. Baker, Ariton	Will Beasley, Olin Beasley, Edna Beasley, Betty Paulk, Jimmie Doster.		227.85		4		2	1	239	2.50	2.50	85.00
Friendship	J. B. Melett, Blakely	Mrs. A. Logan, Eufaula	Abe Norton, Irene Wise, Edna Lawrence.	70	60.00						40	1.50	1.50	23.00
Good Water	D. F. Pelt, Sypress, Fla.	W. C. Matthews, Newton	Minnie Turner, Nancy Scarborough, Aletha Deese, W. C. Matthews and wife	51	146.00			1		1	122	1.50	1.50	57.25
Homes	D. F. Pelt, Sypress, Fla.	Elloise Commander, Ariton	Evelyn Sutton, Elloise Commanders.	52	397.76			5	7		18	2.50	2.50	
Mt. Zion	Rufus Hyman, Slocomb	Mary E. Stanley, Eufaula	Lee Vickers and wife, Cleveland Stanley, Clara Belcher.		86.47				8		82	2.00	2.00	51.10
New Prospect	J. H. Golden, Eufaula	Emma Lou Walker, Clopton	P. H. Walker and wife, Retta Knight.		125.00				2		158	2.00	2.00	61.70
New Zion	Rufus Hyman, Slocomb	Mrs. Ruth Oates, Headland	Mrs. W. H. Wood, Mrs. W. C. White, J. H. Oates and wife.	35	205.00						70	2.50	2.50	125.00
Pleasant Hill		M. Calloway	J. D. Calloway, J. B. Craft.		161.60				3	1	95	2.00	2.00	6.00
Sardis	J. H. Golden, Eufaula	W. H. Gilmore, Clayton	Hubert Clark, W. H. Gilmore, Jack Hatfield, Coy Gilmore.	45	166.49				8	1	82	2.00	2.00	63.00
Union Grove	Rev. McDuffie, Morgan	J. L. Stokes, Abbeville	C. A. Arnold, J. L. Stokes and wife, Minnie Herring, W. W. Welcher, E. R. Mims, Myrtle Welcher.		120.00		1	4	22		194	3.00	3.00	150.00
Hickory Grove		Vallie Blalock, Abbeville			104.11			1			32	1.00	1.00	5.00
Judson														
Pilgrim Rest														

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### CHURCH COVENANT

Having been brought, as we humbly trust, by Divine grace to embrace the Lord Jesus Christ as Saviour, and having obtained justification by faith in His name, we as members of the Baptist church at .....agree:

1. To watch over each other in love, to pray for each other as members of a common faith, ever striving to keep the unity of the spirit in the bonds of peace.

2. We will not speak evil of one another, nor will we persecute or oppose the faults of the weak members of our church, but we will endeavor to be governed by Paul's instructions to Timothy, "That we will reprove, rebuke and exhort each other as members of a common brotherhood."

3. We are commanded to do good unto all men, especially to those who are of the household of faith, but we should remember that relations to each other are closer and the obligations more binding than that of a common bond of Christian charity. In adopting the covenant, we become a family, and a family should feel for each other.

4. We will attend the stated meeting of our church unless we are providentially hindered or uncontrollable circumstances prevent us. And we will contribute of our means as the Lord has prospered us for the support of our pastors and other necessary expenses of our church. And we prefer the services of our church to that of any other, and will pray for our pastor while he is preaching the Word to us.

5. We will not injure or influence in the house of the Lord by occupying seats among the ungodly and sinners, but will occupy seats near the pulpit and use the natural powers which the Lord has given us to praise His Holy Name. We will sing with those who sing and pray with those who pray.

6. We will not be guilty of the sin of Sabbath breaking by making Sunday visits to our neighbors, which is a double sin against the Lord, and hinders others who might wish to do so. Let us remember the law of Moses, which condemns Sabbath breaking and the words of the inspired

apostle which says: "Forsake not assembling of yourselves together as the manner of some is."

7. We will not neglect secret and public prayer, and those of us who are head of families will strive to dedicate our households to the religion of God by teaching our children the great necessity of Christian religion as the only hope of happiness after death. We will adopt the covenant of Joshua, the servant of the Lord, and say: "But as for me and my house we will serve the Lord."

OF GOD—Article 1. We believe there is one, and but one living and true God; who is personally the Father, Son and Holy Ghost, equal and harmonious in every divine perfection.

OF THE HOLY SCRIPTURE—Article 2. We believe that God is the author of the Holy Bible, and that its teaching institutes the only infallible doctrine for the government of His Church.

OF ORIGINAL APOSTASY—Article 2. We believe that Adam was created holy and by voluntary transgressions fell into depravity and consequently involved his posterity in sin.

ON SALVATION—Article 4. We believe that the grace of God comprehends all spiritual blessings. That the gospel is the power of God unto salvation. That the Holy Spirit not only reproves the world of sin, but is the means whereby sinners are converted and made wise unto salvation.

OF CHRISTIAN FAITH—Article 5. We believe that Christian faith is belief in Jesus Christ as the Son and redeemer of the world, and the divinity of the Holy Scriptures. That "Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God."

OF REPENTANCE—Article 6. We believe that repentance is sorrow for sin; the kind of sorrow which constitutes godly repentance, must be preached by effectual conviction of sin.

OF FREE AGENCY—Article 7. We believe the human will is free and that men have ability to accept or reject



the conditions of salvation as they are revealed in the Holy Scriptures.

**OF PRESERVANCE**—Article 8. We do not believe under the gospel dispensation that any soul is elected to eternal life conditionally. But those who by faith preserve to the end will be saved. That it is possible for men who have been converted, to "Make shipwrecks of faith," turn again to sin and finally be lost.

**OF GOOD WORK**—Article 9. We believe that good works is the result of faith and not necessity. That those who have faith will do works of righteousness, while those who have no faith cannot do any thing pleasing or acceptable unto God.

**OF CHRISTIAN BAPTISM**—Article 10. We believe that Christian baptism is the immersion in water of a believer in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost. That baptism cannot be scripturally administered without faith in the subject who receives it.

**OF THE LORD'S SUPPER**—Article 11. We believe the supper was instituted by our Saviour as a commemorative ordinance. That the bread and the wine are representative of His broken body and shed blood. That it was instituted for Christians and that all Christians should unite in observing that sacred service, regardless of names or denominational distinctions.

**OF THE SOUL**—Article 12. We believe that man is a living soul. That the body will die, but that the soul is immortal. That death is the separation of the mortal and immortal parts of human beings.

**OF THE RESURRECTION**—Article 13. We believe in the resurrection of the dead. When the resurrection shall take place the soul and body will unite and form an immortal being. That the righteous will be received into a state of everlasting happiness to reign with God forever. But the wicked will be bound hand and foot and cast into darkness. "The wicked are driven away in their wickedness but the righteous have hope in their deaths."

## ARTICLES OF DECORUM FOR ASSOCIATION

Article 1. That this Association be known and designated at the Southeastern Free Will Baptist Association and shall hold one annual session each year at such time and place as agreed upon by the previous session. After the body assembles an introductory sermon shall be preached by the minister or his alternate who were elected at the previous session to perform that service. In their absence the ministers present shall select one of their number to perform the service.

Article 2. The annual association shall be composed of delegates from the different churches of the association, represented as follows: One delegate for every twenty-five members or less, and one for every fraction of twenty-five or twelve. Any conference may be considered legal when five members are present.

Article 3. All ordained, licensed ministers, officers of the association shall be honorary members of the association, with the privileges as delegates in the association, the Moderator excepted, and he shall only vote in case of a tie.

Article 4. Officers of the association shall be a moderator, clerk, treasurer and executive committee, who shall be elected annually, and their tenure of office shall be one year or until their successors are elected.

Article 5. If the moderator and clerk of the previous session are present, they shall call the body to order. In their absence the ministers present shall appoint a moderator and clerk, proceed to business as follows: Enroll the names of the ministers present, also the delegates from the different churches and visiting brothers and sisters. These shall compose the association.

Article 6. The churches are members of the association and are entitled to fellowship while they are in Gospel order, but a church that becomes disorderly by failing to use discipline in cases of immoral conduct among its members, shall be excluded.

Article 7. The association has the right to obtain ministers when ordination is called for by the church through



its church letters, and report the same to the church through its delegates.

Article 8. The minutes of the association shall be read and approved by the body before adjournment.

Article 9. Amendments may be made to the rules of Decorum by a majority of two-thirds vote of delegates present.