

# MINUTES

—OF THE—

SEVENTY-FIRST ANNUAL SESSION

—OF THE—

## Southeastern Free Will Baptist Association

WHICH CONVENED WITH  
EVERGREEN CHURCH

Friday Before the Third Sunday  
In October, 1949.

———— ( ( ( ( ————— ) ) ) ) —————

— OFFICERS —

REV. D. F. PELT ..... Moderator  
EVELYN SUTTON ..... Clerk  
LINNIE J. STOKES ..... Treasurer

———— ( ( ( ( ————— ) ) ) ) —————

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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

The next session will convene with Pilgrim Rest Church,  
Abbeville, Alabama, on Friday before the third Sunday in  
October, 1950.

## UNION MEETING

HICKORY GROVE CHURCH, ABBEVILLE, ALABAMA

5th Sunday, April 30, 1950.

10:00—House Called to Order by Moderator. Devotional  
by Members of Hickory Grove Church.

10:30—Song Service.

Congregational Singing Led by R. C. Stokes.

11:00—Sermon ..... Rev. Mike Pelt

12:00—Lunch.

1:00—Devotional ..... Margurete Lawrence.

2:00—Report on Vacation Bible School ..... Roland Pelt

2:00—Report on Youth Camps ..... Roland Pelt

**—PROGRAM—****Friday Morning**

Pastor of Pilgrim Rest will have charge of all announcements

- 10:00—Congregation Singing Led by R. C. Stokes.  
 10:30—Devotional ..... Rev. T. B. Mellette  
 10:45—Welcome Address ..... Ruth Smith  
 10:55—Response ..... Lottie Wood White  
 11:05—Song Service.  
 11:30—Sermon ..... Rev. Chester Pelt  
 12:20—Lunch.  
 1:30—Congregation Singing Led by R. C. Stokes.  
 1:40—Devotional ..... Rev. W. T. Wiley  
 1:55—Seating of Delegates.  
 2:45—Moderator's Address.  
 3:00—National Missionary Report ..... Rev. Mike Pelt  
 3:15—Assignment of Homes.  
 3:20—Adjournment.

**Friday Evening**

- 7:00—Sermon ..... Rev. Leroy Knighten

**Saturday Morning**

- 9:30—Singing Led By R. C. Stokes.  
 10:00—Devotional ..... Durward Adkinson  
 10:15—Business Session.  
 10:50—Women's Work ..... Lucille Bodiford  
 11:20—Sermon ..... Rev. K. V. Shutes  
 12:15—Lunch.  
 1:30—Memorial Service.  
     Rev. J. H. Golden in charge of Devotional Part.  
     Sisters Linnie Stokes and Clara Belcher in Charge  
     of Arrangements.  
 2:00—Business Session.  
 3:00—Adjournments.

**MINUTES**

**Of The Southeastern Free Will Baptist Association which met in its Seventy-First Annual Session with Evergreen Church in Dale County, Alabama**

**Friday Morning**

The Association opened with a song led by Reverend Leroy Knighten.

The Moderator's Address was given by Reverend D. F. Pelt.

The congregation sang two more songs. Bro. Argol Garner gave the "Welcome Address." Rev. D. F. Pelt gave a very entertaining response. Rev. W. T. Wiley, of Blakely, Ga., who is 81 years old and a wonderful worker for Christ, led the congregation in prayer.

Rev. T. B. Millette gave the sermon of the morning which was enjoyed by everyone.

An intermission of an hour was given for lunch. A delicious lunch was served.

**Friday Afternoon**

Song was led by Rev. Leroy Knighten. Devotional was given by W. T. Wylie. His subject was: "Who Shall Dwell In The Tabernacle." Song, "Amazing Grace," was led by Rev. Knighten.

The moderator then declared the house ready for business. He called for the letters from the Churches of the Association. Letters were read by Sister Eloise Commander and Sister Ruth Smith. On motion letters were received and delegates seated. Motion moved to elect Sister Evelyn Sutton as substitute Clerk.

Committees were appointed—Finance Committee: Bro. Henry Garner, Sister Gaurice Brown, Sister Irene Wise. Nominating Committee: Sister Clara Belcher, Bro. W. C. Mathews, Sister Ruth Smith. Two songs were led by Bro. Knighten.

Called for corresponding delegate. Rev. T. B. Mellette, a visitor from Midway Association, Bro. W. T. Wiley from Midway Association, Rev. Leroy Knighten, a visitor from Chattahoochee Association. Motion was carried to seat these people as visiting Brethren. Song, "Oh How I Love

Jesus," was sung and fellowship was given to the visiting Brethren.

Rev. T. B. Millette, gave a report on, "Missions of a National Standpoint." He made the statement, "We have become more Missionary minded." Among others he mentioned our Missionary in India, Miss Laura Bell Barnard. Rev. Leroy Knighten added to the Missionary report, "We should become more missionary minded."

The moderator led in prayer. Every one was asked to attend services, Friday Evening at 7:30. Rev. Leroy Knighten, bringing the message. Delegates were asked to spend the night. The congregation sang, "To The Work."

The Association was dismissed by a prayer by the Moderator at 3:00 p. m. to resume work Saturday at 9:00 a. m.

Friday evening at 7:30 the nice crowd who attended the message brought by Rev. Leroy Knighten. His subject was, "Alone With God."

### Saturday Morning

Singing was led by Rev. K. V. Shutes, "Amazing Grace" and "Revive Us Again." Rev. Leroy Knighten led in prayer.

The Moderator renewed the call for delegates and letters. Letters from Chester Chapel, Sardis, Hickory Grove and New Zion were read.

The Moderator asked for other visiting brethren to be seated with us. Rev. K. V. Shutes, from The Progressive Association, gave an interesting talk. Rev. Willey, our Missionary from Cuba, was with us. A song was sung by the congregation, and Rev. Willey was introduced to the Association. He brought at that time an informal message, which was very inspiring. His main topic was "Faith." His talk was greatly enjoyed.

A special offering of \$37.13 was taken for the Mission in Cuba.

We had a brief intermission then met back for the morning sermon which was brought by Rev. Chester Pelt. The subject of the sermon was "Why Are We Here." (Exodus 1-6, verses, 19th chapter). Rev. D. F. Pelt led in prayer and dismissed for lunch which was enjoyed by everyone.

### Saturday Afternoon.

Mrs. Mildred Pelt gave an interesting talk on "Women's Work." She left the thought that women do have a definite part in church work. The main topic "The Church Cannot Rise Above Its Music."

The report was given from the Nominating Committee: Pilgrim Rest asked for the Association and that Rev. Chester Pelt preach the Introductory Sermon Friday morning.

Report from Finance Committee was given and adopted. Report on Sunday Schools, League and W. M. U. was as follows: 7 Sunday Schools, 2 Leagues, 2 W. M. U.'s.

Miscellaneous business. Delegates to sister associations were asked to volunteer. Sister Clara Belcher and Sister Eloise Commander are to attend the Chattahoochee.

Salem—Rev. D. F. Pelt; Alabama State Association—Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Oates. Motion was made to send \$20.00 by them to the association.

Motion that each church bring at least \$15.00 to the association next year. Motion to pay clerk \$25.00 and the moderator \$10.00.

Officers were elected as follows: Treasurer, Linnie J. Stokes; Moderator, retained Rev. D. F. Pelt; Vice Moderator, Brother J. H. Oates; Clerk, Evelyn Sutton.

Rev. K. V. Shutes gave a report on our orphanage at Elthridge, Ala. Have modernized all the buildings and are planning to buy more land. A special offering of \$30.91 was taken for the orphanage.

On motion, we gave a rising vote of thanks to Evergreen for the kind hospitality and beautiful flowers.

The clerk was asked to write a resolution of thanks in the Minutes. Motion to have Union meeting second Fifth Sunday in 1950, April 30, at Hickory Grove near Abbeville, Ala.

We have said farewell until we meet with Hickory Grove church the 5th Sunday in April.

EVELYN SUTTON, Clerk.

D. F. PELT, Moderator.

We the Southeastern Free Will Baptist Association, do highly appreciate the hospitality and beautiful flowers of the Evergreen Church during the Association.

EVELYN SUTTON, Association, Clerk.

CHURCHES	PASTORS AND POST OFFICES	CLERKS AND POST OFFICES	DELEGATES	Enrolled in Sunday School	Pastor's Salary	Dismissed by Letter	Received by Letter	Received on Confession	Died	Present Membership	Paid Association	Paid Minutes	Other Donations	League Members
Good Water	S. T. Shutes, Calquit, Ga.	W. C. Mathews, Newton	W. C. Mathews, Mary Mathews, Jewell Thomley, Dora Thomley, Aletha Deese.	55	321.69			1	1	117	3.00	2.25		
Chester Chapel	J. H. Golden, Eufaula	Mrs. M. G. Vinson, Abbeville	J. C. Calhoun, Mrs. Bolt Hudspeth.		125.71				1	41	4.50	1.50		
Mt. Zion	Rufus Hyman, Slocumb	Mary S. Cox, Eufaula	A. B. Stanley, Mrs. T. B. Turner, Mrs. Ruby Stanley, Mrs. Clara Belcher		153.33			2	2	101	3.00	3.00		
Holmes	Chester Pelt, Marianna	Eliose Commander, Ariton	Durwood Adkinson, James H. Sutton	39	310.00					19	2.50	2.50	171.14	
Pleasant Hill	J. L. Tedder, Blakely	Marvin Calloway, Headland	G. D. Calloway, A. L. Craft, Henry Farmer, Mable Farmer, Marvin Calloway.		141.43	1				92	4.00	2.00		
Union Grove	T. B. Mellette, Blakely	Charles McKnight, Abbeville	Charles McKnight, Jim V. Crowley, Linn Stokes, Orie Hatfield, Comer Herring, Billy Mims.		272.00	1		5	2	189	5.00	5.00	57.34	
Sardis	J. H. Golden, Eufaula	W. H. Gilmore, Clayton	Mrs. W. H. Gilmore, Hubert Clark, Mrs. Lle Braswell.	51	245.30		1			101	2.00	2.00	3.00	
Pilgrim Rest	T. B. Mellette, Blakely	Ruth Smith, Abbeville	Mrs. J. A. Money, Mrs. Henrietta Davis, Mrs. Elma Lindsay, Ruth Smith.	54	103.50	1		6		130	5.00	5.00	10.50	
Hickory Grove	P. A. Brackins, Newville	Vallie Blalock, Abbeville	John H. Starling, Valley Blalock, Nita Hickman.	35	142.55			2		34	3.00	2.00	66.00	
Evergreen	J. H. Golden, Eufaula	Edna Beasley, Ariton	Henry Garner, Howard Sutton, Olive Beasley, Mrs. Gilbert Garner.		205.00	5		6		89	2.50	2.50		
New Zion	Chester Pelt, Marianna	Ruth Oates, Headland	J. H. Oates, Raymond Herring, Connie Wood, Susie Byrd Shelley	55	300.00			6		102	2.50	2.50	150.00	
Friendship	D. F. Pelt, Marianna, Fla.	Ella F. Johnson, Eufaula	Mrs. W. Lawrence, Mrs. Garriss Brown, Mr. A. Norton, Mrs. Mallory	61	600.00	1		12		60	3.00	2.00	141.00	28
New Prospect	J. H. Golden, Eufaula	Emma Lou Tew, Clopton	Phil Walker, Flozell Wilkerson, Retha Knight.		164.00	3		1	1	68	5.00	1.50	71.60	

### Obituaries.

In loving memory of seven of our beloved members:  
NEW PROSPECT—One.

MT. ZION—Two.

UNION GROVE—Mrs. Minnie Melvin Roberson, 50;  
Mrs. O'Nean Bodiford, 39.

CHESTER CHAPEL—H. P. Calhoun.

GOODWATER—Nessa Thomley, 45.

### Report of Treasurer

Old Balance .....	\$ 31.94
Extra Balance In Bank .....	20.00
Received at 1948 Session .....	66.00
Total .....	\$117.94
Paid Out—	
Clerk and Moderator .....	\$ 35.00
Minutes .....	35.00
Total .....	\$ 70.00
Balance in Treasury .....	\$ 47.90

Respectfully submitted

LINNIE J. STOKES, Treasurer 1949

### 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 or 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 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 3. 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 work of righteousness, while those who have no faith cannot do anything 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 as 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 reports 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.