

MINUTES

—OF THE—

SEVENTY-SECOND ANNUAL SESSION

—OF THE—

Southeastern Free Will Baptist Association

WHICH CONVENED WITH

PILGRIM REST CHURCH

Friday Before the Third Sunday

In October, 1950

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— OFFICERS —

REV. D. F. PELT.....Moderator

EVELYN SUTTON.....Clerk

LINNIE J. STOKES.....Treasurer

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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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

The next session will convene with New Prospect Church,
Clopton, Alabama, on Friday before the third Sunday in Octo-
ber, 1951.

UNION MEETING

Fifth Sunday, April 29, 1951

To be held with New Zion Free Will Baptist Church,
Tumbleton, Alabama.

10:00—House called to order by moderator. Devotional by
members of New Zion Church.

10:30—Welcome Address J. H. Oates
Response To be appointed by Moderator
Congregation Singing led by Herbert Roney.

11:00—Sermon Michael R. Pelt

12:00—Lunch.

1:00—Devotional Lucile Bodiford
Report on following subjects will be limited to 15
minutes.

Vacation Bible School Roland Pelt

Youth Camp Michael R. Pelt

Ladies Auxiliary Mrs. Linnie Stokes

Sunday School C. A. Arnold

League Work Mrs. Margurete Lawrence McClenny

2:30—Adjournment.

UNION MEETING MINUTES OF 1950

Song Service by Congregation.

Devotional was given by Sue Blalock, a young member of Hickory Grove Church.

We made a count of churches represented and most of them did have representatives.

The congregation sang two more songs led by Bro. R. C. Stokes.

The sermon of the morning was brought by Rev. Mike Pelt, "Ye Are the Salt of the Earth."

Afternoon

The congregation sang more songs led by Bro. Stokes.

Two young boys of Hickory Grove church sang a special number.

Rev. Brackin brought the afternoon sermon.

Rev. Mike Pelt gave a talk on Vacation Bible School.

Rev. Dan Pelt took charge of the program and gave a wonderful talk on the Church doctrine.

At this time one of the deacons from Goodwater Church was ordained.

A collection of \$15.33 was taken for Rev. Mike Pelt.

Everyone gave a rising vote of thanks to Hickory Grove church for a wonderful day and delicious dinner.

—P R O G R A M—

Of The

SOUTHEASTERN FREE WILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

To Be Held With

NEW PROSPECT CHURCH

On Friday and Saturday before the third Sunday in
OCTOBER, 1951.

Pastor of New Prospect will have charge of all announcements.

- 10:00—Congregational Singing led by R. C. Stokes
 Devotional Pastor
 Welcome Address Emma Lou Tew
 Response J. H. Oates
 Song Service
 11:30—Sermon Michael R. Pelt
 12:20—Lunch.
 1:30—Song Service.
 Call for Church Letters.
 Seating of Delegates.
 Moderator's Message.
 Appointment of Committees.
 Assignment of Homes.
 3:20—Adjournment.

SATURDAY MORNING

- 9:30—Song Service.
 10:00—Scripture and prayer Moderator
 Business Session.
 10:15—Woman's Work Mrs. Lucille Bodiford
 11:20—Sermon Rev. T. B. Mellette
 12:15—Lunch.
 1:30—Memorial Service. Directed by Moderator and assisted by Sisters Linnie Stokes, Clara Belcher and Edna Lawrence.
 2:00—Business Session.
 3:00—Adjournment.

MINUTES

**Of The Southeastern Free Will Baptist Association Which
Met In Its Seventy-Second Annual Session With
Pilgrim Rest Church At Abbeville, Alabama.**

FRIDAY MORNING

The Association opened with songs led by Bro. R. C. Stokes.

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

Rev. D. F. Pelt introduced to the congregation, Rev. John Barnes, who brought the morning devotional. His text was taken from Proverbs, Chapter 3-10. "Happy Gain of Wisdom." Brother C. A. Arnold, who is a wonderful church worker, led the congregation in prayer.

Sister Ruth Smith gave the Welcome Address. Brother J. H. Oates gave a nice response.

The congregation sang more songs led by Brother R. C. Stokes. Brother Vickers led the congregation in prayer.

Rev. K. V. Shutes gave the sermon of the morning. His subject was "Who Is Going to Lead Your Church." It was a wonderful sermon. Four souls were won to Christ and after the sermon they gave their own personal testimonies. Everyone enjoyed the service.

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

Friday Afternoon.

Song was led by Brother R. C. Stokes. Rev. D. F. Pelt led the prayer.

Devotional was given by Rev. Teddar. His text was taken from John 13: "Be Ye Also Ready." Song, "Oh How I Love Jesus" was sung.

The Moderator then declared the house ready for business. He called for letters from the churches of the Association. Letters were read by Sister Clara Belcher and Rev. LeRoy Knighten. On motion letters were received and delegates seated.

Committees were appointed. Finance Committee: Bro. J. H. Oates, Sister Edna Lawrence, Sister Clara Belcher.

Nominating Committee—Bro. Henry Blalock, Sister J. H. Oates, Sister Eloise Commander.

Plans for Future Improvements Committee—Sister Olive Beasley, Sister Vallie Blalock, Sister Ruth Smith, Rev. John Golden.

Compiling Committee — Rev. Barnes, Sister Howard Smith, Sister Mary McKnight.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON

Song led by Bro. R. C. Stokes. Rev. D. F. Pelt led in prayer.

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The moderator then declared the house ready for business. He called for letters from the Churches of the association. Letters were read by Sister Clara Belcher and Rev. Leroy Knighten. On motion letters were received and delegates seated.

Committees were appointed:

FINANCE COMMITTEE—Bro. J. H. Oates, Sister Edna Lawrence, Sister Clara Belcher.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE—Bro. Henry Blalock, Sister J. H. Oates, Sister Eloise Commander.

PLANS FOR FUTURE IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE—Sister Olive Beasley, Sister Vallie Blalock, Sister Ruth Smith, Rev. John Golden.

COMPILING COMMITTEE—Rev. Barnes, Sister Howard Smith, Sister Mary McKnight.

Motion was made to seat visiting brothers with us.

Motion was made to receive an offering for Rev. Shutes and Rev. Knighten. The offering was \$21.00.

The moderator led in prayer. Everyone was asked to spend the night.

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 7:00 a nice crowd attended church and enjoyed the message brought by Rev. Leroy Knighten.

SATURDAY MORNING

Singing was led by Bro. R. C. Stokes, "Love Lifted Me" and "Standing On The Promises." Devotional was given by Sister Joyce Kelley, "Take Up Thy Cross And Follow Me." Mat. 16:27. Joyce is one of the girls who attended

the youth camp in Georgia this year. Rev. Mike Pelt led the congregation in prayer.

The congregation was declared in order for business. Rev. D. F. Pelt led in prayer.

The moderator renewed the call for delegates and letters. Letters from Sardis, Union Grove and Hickory Grove were read. Motion was made to receive these letters and seat the delegates.

Motion was made that the nominating committee will nominate delegates to the sister associations. And to appoint officers for the association. And also appoint a place for the next session of the association. and the union meeting.

Rev. Mike Pelt gave a very interesting talk on missions. Mike has made a tour of Cuba among the mission field. His text was taken from Matthew 28: 19-20.

The congregation sang a song, "Kneel At The Cross."

Sister Lucille Bodiford gave a very interesting talk on womens work. The women can do a wonderful thing in the community by taking an active part in the work.

Rev. J. N. Barnes made a short talk on the orphanage and asked that every one help them as much as possible. An offering of \$35.00 was taken.

The morning sermon was brought by Rev. Chester Pelt, "Go yea Into All The World and Preach ye the Gospel." Chester gave an informal speech on how the Church should take more interest in our Churches and make them grow stronger. The congregation was dismissed for lunch which was enjoyed by everyone.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON

Rev. D. F. Pelt gave the devotional and then entered into the Memorial Service. After the motion was made Church be declared in order. Goodwater letter was read and delegates seated.

Motion that business be attended.

Report from Finance Committee was given and adopted. Report on plans for the future was read and accepted.

Rev. D. F. Pelt gave a brief talk on why we should tithe. New Prospect Church is to have the Association, and Rev. Mike Pelt to preach the Introductory Sermon.

Union Meeting will be held at New Zion.

Compiling Committe report was given and adopted.

Motion was made to have 300 minutes printed for another year. Motion to pay clerk \$25.00 and the Moderator \$10.00.

Treasurers report was given and adopted. Motion that uniform program be printed in the minutes. Mrs. J. D. O'Donnell, Steele, Ala., Rt. one.

Everyone was asked to write to Mrs. C. B. Heckmon, Montgomery, Alabama, Rt. 3, Box 550. Mrs. Heckmon is being treated for her health in Montgomery. She is a wonderful church worker.

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

Miscellaneous business. Delegates to the sister associations were appointed.

CHATTAHOOCHEE—Sister Clara Belcher.

SALEM — Rev. D. F. Pelt.

STATE ASSOCIATION—Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Oates and Sister Eloise Commander.

MIDWAY ASSOCIATION—Mrs. Linnie Stokes.

STATE LINE ASSOCIATION— Bro. Bob Stokes.

"Plan For Future Improvements"

We urge that we as an association accept, believe, and practice the doctrine of tithing. The practice of tithing is throught the law of Moses. Abraham and Jacob were both tithers; it was included in the law and was approved by Jesus. We urge our ministers, deacons, Sunday School teachers and league workers to teach this doctrine constantly.

Be it resolved that each Church receive an offering to be sent to the state unified programs, quarterly.

Be it resolved that each Church send \$15.00 to the association to be used for minutes and general association purposes.

Be it resolved that each Church have a woman's Missionary Society.

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

We have said farewell until we meet with New Zion Church the 5th Sunday in April.

EVELYN SUTTON, Clerk

D. F. PELT, Moderator

CHURCHES	PASTORS AND POSTOFFICES	CLERKS AND POSTOFFICES	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 Membership
Good Water	S. T. Shutes, Colquit, Georgia	Jewell Thomley, Newton, Alabama	Boyd Deese, G. C. Knowles, Loyd White, Huston Thomley, Jewell Thomley, Dora Thomley	40	246.98	3		12	3	124	12.50	2.50		
Chester Chapel	P. A. Brackin, Newville, Alabama	Mrs. M. G. Vinson, Abbeville, Alabama	Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Calhoun, Mr. and Mrs. M. G. Vinson		163.56	1				40	3.50	1.00		
Mt. Zion	P. E. Knighten, Eufaula, Alabama	Mrs. Henry Cox, Eufaula, Alabama	Lee Vickers, Rubye Stanley, Mary Cox, Clara Belcher		220.31	2	3	1	1	100	15.00			
Holmes	Mike Pelt, Marianna, Florida	Eloise Commander, Ariton, Alabama	Blondell Hartzog, Joyce Kelley	48	263.78			10		29	15.00		183.62	47
Pleasant Hill	Paul Mallory, Midland City, Ala	Marvin Calloway, Headland, Alabama	A. L. Craft, Alex Parker, Henry Farmer, Marvin Calloway, Jewell Calloway, and G. D. Calloway		161.33	4		3		91	4.00	2.00		
Union Grove	D. F. Pelt, Marianna, Florida	Charles McKnight, Abbeville, Alabama	O. C. McKnight, Jim V. Crowley, Bob Stokes, Linnie Stokes, Mary McKnight and Erin Gilbert	50	300.00	6		6		189	10.00	10.00	145.00	40
Sardis	J. H. Golden, Eufaula, Alabama	W. H. Gilmore, Clayton, Alabama	Lee Braswell, Lou Clark, Hubert Clark, A. Roney	54	215.84	2				99	2.00	2.00	28.00	
Pilgrim Rest	J. N. Barnes, Blakely, Georgia	Ruth Smith, Abbeville, Alabama	Ruth Smith, Carl Wilson, Mrs. Guy Murphy, Mrs. Tom Davis, Mrs. Bob Doswell	68	190.00	4		22		148	2.50	2.50	10.00	
Hickory Grove	P. A. Brackins, Newville, Alabama	Vallie Blalock, Abbeville, Alabama	Charlie Blalock, Clarence Blalock, Sue Blalock, Henry Blalock		147.20	1				33	3.50	2.00	46.50	
Everygreen	J. H. Golden, Eufaula, Alabama	Edna Beasley, Ariton, Alabama	Edna Beasley, Olive Beasley, Jennie Doster		232.40	3		8	1	93	15.00			
New Zion	Chester Pelt, Marianna, Florida	Ruth Oats, Headland, Alabama	J. H. Oates, Herbert Roney, Sallie Mae Woods and Corine Wood	70	300.00			11		112	5.00	5.00		
Friendship	D. F. Pelt, Marianna, Florida	Irene Wise, Eufaula, Alabama	Edna Lawrence, Irene Wise, G. M. Brown, Clyde Beasley	40	575.00	1		2	1	60	15.00		5.00	36
New Prospect	J. H. Golden, Eufaula, Alabama	Oyd Tew, Clopton, Alabama	Viole Golf, Phil Walker, Retha Knight		150.00	2			2	155	5.00	1.00		

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

EVELYN SUTTON, Association Clerk

COMPILING REPORT

Total Members of All Churches	1,273
Received in One Year	78
Dismissed in One Year	29
Paid Pastors	\$3,166.40
Other Donations	\$ 418.12
Paid for Association and Minutes	\$ 136.00
Leagues Organized	3
Sunday Schools	7
Died	8

OBITUARIES

In loving memory of Eight of our beloved members.

FRIENDSHIP—One.

EVERGREEN—Mr. Webb McKnight

NEW PROSPECT—Two.

GOODWATER—Three.

MT. ZION—One.

REPORT OF TREASURER

Old Balance	\$ 47.94
Received at 1949 Session	\$ 77.75
Total	\$125.69
Paid Out—	
Clerk and Moderator	\$ 35.00
Gift for Pelt family	\$ 21.67
Paid for Minutes	\$ 35.50
Total	\$ 92.17
Balance in Treasury	\$ 33.52

Respectfully Submitted

LINNIE J. STOKES, Treasurer, 1950

Church Covenant.

Having been brought, as we humbly trust, by Divine grace to embrace the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior, 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 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 for 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 PRESERVATION—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 savior 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 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 case 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 by 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.

— NOTES —
