

MINUTES

— OF THE —

SEVENTY-FOURTH ANNUAL SESSION

— OF —

Southeastern Free Will Baptist Association

WHICH CONVENED WITH

NEW ZION CHURCH

Friday Before The Third Sunday

In October, 1952

— AND —

HICKORY GROVE CHURCH

Saturday Before The Third Sunday

In October, 1952

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—OFFICERS—

REV. D. F. PELT	_____	Moderator
BRO. J. H. OATES	_____	Vice-Moderator
EVELYN SUTTON	_____	Clerk
LINNIE J. STOKES	_____	Treasurer

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

J. H. Oates, J. H. Garner, Cleve Stanley
and Durward Adkinson

The next session will convene with Holmes Church, Ariton, Ala., located on Highway 30 between Ariton and Clio, on Friday before the third Sunday in October and with Goodwater Church, Newton, Ala., located on Highway 66, between Newton and Hartford, on Saturday before the third Sunday in Oct. 1953.

UNION MEETING

Fifth Sunday, May 31, 1953

To be held with Union Grove Church, Abbeville, Alabama.

- 10:00—House called to order by moderator P. E. Knighten, pastor, will preside.
- 10:10—Devotional Rev. P. A. Brackin
- 10:20—Songs Congregation
- 10:25—Welcome Address Bro. Bob Stokes
- 10:40—Response J. H. Oates
- 10:55—Special Music Chester Chapel Choir
- 11:15—Introduction of Speaker Rev. John Golden
- 11:25—Message Rev. W. H. Reyland
- 12:00—Lunch
- 1:30—Songs Congregation
- 1:35—Devotional Mrs. A. B. Stanley
- 1:45—"The Lights of Truth In Our Homes"—
Blondell Hartzog
- 2:00—Special Music Stanley Family
- 2:30—Message Rev. P. E. Knighten
- Following this message there will be a short business session.
- Songs
- Closing Prayer Bro. C. A. Arnold

UNION MEETING MINUTES OF 1952

Song Service by Congregation—"Heavenly Sunlight."

Bro. W. H. Gilmore led in prayer.

Mrs. W. H. Gilmore gave the devotional from the 23rd Psalms. A wonderful talk—"The Lord is My Shepherd."

Bro. W. H. Gilmore gave a heart-warming welcome address.

Response—Bro. W. C. McClenny, Jr.

Song Service led by Bro. Stokes.

The sermon of the morning was brought by Rev. Mike Pelt. His text was on Missions. We should all be missionaries for God. Now is the time for Missionary endeavorment. There are over two billion people in the world today who have never heard of Jesus Christ.

AFTERNOON

A very inspiring devotional was given by Matha Sutton.

Collection was taken for Rev. Mike Pelt of \$19.71.

Holmes Church presented a short play "Wake Up Dad."

A rising vote of thanks was shown to Sardis Church for a wonderful day at their church.

—PROGRAM—
Of The
SOUTHEASTERN FREE WILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION
To Be Held With
HOLMES CHURCH
On Friday before the Third Sunday in October, 1953
—FRIDAY MORNING—

- 10:00—Congregation Singing
 Devotional Rev. Kenneth Phillips
 Welcome Address Durward Adkinson
 Response Sister Mary McKnight
 Song Service
- 11:30—Sermon Rev. Mike Pelt
- 12:30—Lunch
- 1:30—Song Service
 Call for Church Letters
 Seating of Delegates
 Appointing Committees
 Memorial Service Sisters Clare Belcher
 and Grace Tyler
- 2:30—Sermon Rev. Leroy Knighten
 Assignment of Homes
- 3:20—Adjournment

—PROGRAM—
Of The
SOUTHEASTERN FREE WILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION
To Be Held With
GOODWATER CHURCH
On Saturday before the Third Sunday in October 1953

- 9:30—Call to order by the Moderator
 Singing
- 9:15—Devotional Rev. S. T. Shutes
- 10:00—Welcome Address Mrs. Inez Thomley
- 10:10—Response Sister Clara Belcher
- 10:20—Womans Auxiliary Work Mrs. K. V. Shutes
- 10:55—Business Session
- 11:20—Sermon Rev. K. V. Shutes
- 12:00—Lunch
- 1:30—Sunday School Report A. C. Womack
- 1:50—League Report Mary Edna Brown
- 2:10—Business Session
- 3:00—Adjournment

MINUTES

**Of The Southeastern Free Will Baptist Association Which
Met In Its Seventy-Fourth Annual Session With
New Zion Church At Headland, Alabama.**

—FRIDAY MORNING—

The Association opened with songs led by Rev. Leroy Knighten.

Rev. Nobles led the Congregation in prayer.

Rev. J. B. Lovering brought the morning devotional—
“By the help of the Holy Spirit we can learn to worship.”

More songs were sung by the Congregation.

Bro. J. H. Oates of New Zion Church gave a wonderful welcome address.

Sister W. H. Gilmore gave a nice response.

The Moderator appointed a fund committee—Bro. O. C. McKnight, Bro. W. H. Gilmore and Sister Jewell Thomley.

Bro. J. H. Oates and Sister Clara Belcher read the Church letters.

Moderator declared the house in order for business.

Motion was made to receive the letters and seat the delegates.

Songs led by Bro. Roney.

Rev. S. T. Shutes brought the morning message—“The Hour Has Come.”

An intermission of an hour was given for dinner.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON

Songs were led by Rev. S. T. Shutes.

The house was declared in order for business.

Visiting preachers were recognized:

Rev. S. T. Shutes	Midway Association
Rev. P. E. Knighten	Southeastern Association
Rev. J. V. Lovering	Georgia State Association
Rev. Leroy Knighten	Chattahoochee Association
Rev. P. A. Brackin	State Line Association
Rev. Hanks	Birmingham District
Rev. Nobles	State Line Association
Rev. Gordon	State Line Association
Rev. Tetter	Georgia State Line Association

The following committees were appointed:

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE—Mrs. Tull McKnight, Mrs. Rosie Adkinson, Mrs. Olive Beasley.

COMMITTEE TO MEET WITH SARDIS DELEGATES—Bro. J. H. Oates, Bob Stokes, Will Beasley.

A memorial song was sung in memory of our deceased and a bouquet of flowers was placed in memory of them. Sister Joyce Hornsby gave a nice talk at this time in their memory.

Rev. D. F. Pelt led the Congregation in prayer.

Rev. P. E. Knighten brought the afternoon sermon—
“We Would Have Better Children If We were Better Mothers and Fathers.”

More congregational singing.

The following committees were appointed:

NOMINATING COMMITTEE—Bro. Charlie Blalock, Sister Annie Sutton, Bro. W. C. Matthews.

COMPLYING COMMITTEE—Sister Evelyn Sutton, Sister Clara Belcher, Sister Joyce Hornsby.

Rev. Hanks brought a very inspiring message. His text was “Life.”

A motion was made to extend to New Zion Church a rising vote of thanks for a wonderful day and a delicious meal.

SATURDAY MORNING

Singing was led by Rev. Chester Pelt.

Sentence prayer was opened by Bro. Oates and closed by Bro. Arnold.

Hickory Grove Choir sang several specials.

Rev. P. A. Brackin brought the morning devotional.

The Choir sang another song.

Welcome address was given by Rev. P. A. Brackin.

Sister Mary McKnight gave a nice response.

The Moderator declared the house in order for business and the letter from Chester Chapel was read and approved.

The delegates were received and seated.

Motion was made to seat Rev. Chester Pelt. Bro. Arnold gave him the fellowship.

Songs were sung by Congregation, led by Rev. Chester Pelt.

Sister Blondell Hartzog gave a wonderful talk on Woman's Work.

The Finance and Treasurer's Report was given and adopted.

An offering of \$80.65 was taken for the orphanage at Eldridge, Ala.

The Congregation sang more songs led by Bro. Stokes. Rev. Chester Pelt brought the morning sermon—"We Should Present Our Bodies and Minds to God and His Work."

A wonderful hour of fellowship and food was enjoyed by everyone at the noon hour.

The Moderator declared the house in order for business.

Report on resolutions was given and adopted:
Be it resolved—that our Association adopt a budget. We suggest the following: 60-percent Pastor's Salary, 10-percent Building Fund, 10-percent General Church Fund, 10-percent Education, 10-percent Missions.

Be it resolved—that our church call their pastors during the month of June.

Be it resolved—that we adopt the National Association Treaties.

Be it resolved—that our Association build at least two parsonages.

Be it resolved—that we take \$19.35 out of the treasury to send to the orphanage to make the offering even \$100. (dollars).

Respectively submitted by:
MRS. OLIVE BEASLEY
MRS. TULL McKNIGHT
MRS. ROSIE ADKINSON

Songs by Congregation.

Rev. John Golden gave an inspiring sermon — "What Will Thou Say, When He Shall Call Us?"

Compiling Report was given and adopted.	
Total Members of All Churches	1,343
Received in One Year	88
Dismissed in One Year	13
Paid Pastors	\$4,242.13
Other Donations	\$2,619.87
Paid for Association and Minutes	\$166.00

Leagues Organized	3
Sunday Schools	8
Died	9

Bro. C. A. Arnold gave a report on Sunday Schools.
The Nominating Report was given and adopted.

NOMINATING REPORT

Association will meet with Holmes Church on Friday before the third Sunday in October and meet with Goodwater on Saturday before the third Sunday in October. The Union meeting to meet with Union Church, May 31, 1953.

OFFICERS—

Moderator	Rev. D. F. Pelt
Vice-Moderator	Bro. J. H. Oates
Clerk	Evelyn Sutton
Treasurer	Linnie Stokes
Executive Committee—	J. H. Oates, Cleve Stanley, J. H. Garner and Durward Adkinson.

Delegates to Sister Associations:

Chattahoochee—Sister Olive Beasley.

Salem—Rev. D. F. Pelt.

State Association—Bro. Bob Stokes, Bro. A. C. Arnold.

Midway—Sister C. B. Hickman.

State Line—Bro. Loyd White, Bro. W. C. Matthews.

A rising vote of thanks was given to Hickory Grove for a wonderful day and good food.

Motion to organize a Woman's Auxiliary at the next meeting was made.

Program Committee — Sister Linnie Stokes, Sister Eloise Commander, Sister Altha Deese, Sister Evelyn Sutton.

IN MEMORIAL

A beautiful bouquet was donated in memory of our deceased.

NEW ZION—Audie Jewell Harris, age 41. Warren Shelby, age 80.

UNION—Lucy Mae Smith, age 35.

GOODWATER—H. E. Harris, J. J. Gilley.

EVERGREEN—Enoch Hartzog.

CHURCHES	PASTORS AND POST OFFICES	CLERKS AND POST OFFICES	DELEGATES	Enrolled in Sunday School	Pastors Salary	Dismissed by Letter	Received by Confession	Died	Present Membership	Paid Association	Paid Minutes	Other Donations	League Membership
Good Water	S. T. Shutes Colquit, Ga.	Jewell Thomley Newton, Ala.	W. C. Mathews, Mary Mathews, Loyd and Cleola White, Dora Thomley	57	874.39	1	4	2	136	12.50	2.50	184.44	
Chester Chapel	P. A. Brackin Newville, Ala.	Mary J. Calhoun, Abbeville, Ala.	J. C. Calhoun, Mary Calhoun, Pauline Coates	45	163.30		3		48	3.00	2.00	70.00	
Mt. Zion	P. E. Knighten Phenix City, Ala.	Mary Cox Eufaula, Ala.	Clara Belcher, Cleve Stanley, Mr. and Mrs. George Lewis		251.05	1	1	2	97	12.00		121.30	
Holmes	Kenneth Phillips Cottonwood, Ala.	Elouise Commander Ariton, Ala.	Rosa Adkinson, Joyce Hornsby	40	352.51		1		30	15.00		518.17	35
Pleasant Hill	Paul Mallory Midland Cty, Ala.	Mrs. C. E. Watson Headland, Ala.	A. L. Craft, Marvin Calloway, Ethel Farmer, Henry Far- mer, Bill Farmer, Lucille Bodiford	29	184.25		3		94	13.00	2.00	110.00	
Union Grove	P. E. Knighten Phenix City, Ala.	Frank Welcher Abbeville, Ala.	Bob Stokes, Jessie and Tull McKnight, Emory Hamilton, Theron Howell	72	382.08	3	7	1	196	15.00		767.18	40
Sardis	J. T. Tetter Blakely, Ga.	W. H. Gilmore Clayton, Ala.	William and Annie Bush, Lone Clark, William and Charles Gilmore	50	222.75	5	4		99	10.00	5.00	72.64	
Pilgrim Rest	W. F. McDuffy Cedar Sprgs, Ga	Gladys W. Kon, Abbeville, Ala.	Earl Money, Louise Carr, John Wilson, Carl Wilson, Kathleen Wilson		219.45		9		159	5.00	5.00		
Hickory Grove	P. A. Brackin Newville, Ala.	Vallie Blalock Abbeville, Ala.	Juanita Hickman, Martha Weedle, Charlie Blalock		201.50				32	6.00	3.00	62.15	
Evergreen	W. T. Hutto Newton, Ala.	Bessie Tyler Ariton, Ala.	Willard Olive Beasley, Edna Beasley		250.91	2	4	2	94	15.00		424.45	
New Zion	Chester Pelt Marianna, Fla.	Ruth Oates Headland, Ala.	Masdon Killingsworth, Ralph and Edd Oates, Raymond Herring, Monette Shelley	90	480.00		21	2	130	15.00		100.00	
Friendship	Chester Pelt, Marianna, Fla.	Irene Wise Eufaula, Ala.	Margurette McClenny, Rupert Stephens, Evelyn Lawrence	40	539.94		28	1	81	15.00		127.54	35
New Prospect	P. E. Knighten Phenix City, Ala.	Julian Trawick Clopton, Ala.	Flanzell Wilkison, Phil Walker, Frances Trawick, Barney Carroll		120.00		3		147	7.00	3.00	52.00	

MT. ZION—Mrs. Helen Turner, 42. Mrs. Elizabeth Stanley, age 100.

FRIENDSHIP—Joe Mallory.

Rev. D. F. Pelt led the Congregation in prayer.

Rev. P. E. Knighten brought the afternoon sermon—
“Children Would Be Better If We Had Better Mothers and Daddies.”

Songs were sung by Congregation.

REPORT OF TREASURER FOR 1952

Old Balance	\$ 22.48
Received at 1951 Session	158.25
Total	180.73

Paid Out—

Clerk	\$ 25.00
Moderator	10.00
Rev. Mike Pelt	15.00
Missions	20.00
Minutes and Mailing	46.50
Total	116.50

Total	180.73
Total	116.50
Total	64.23

Respectfully submitted:

LINNIE J. STOKES, Treasurer, 1952

FINANCE REPORT ON MONEY SPENT

Sent to orphanage enough money to make the total of \$100.00. Paid Moderator \$15.00. Clerk \$25.00. Rev. Brackins \$5.00. Rev. Chester Pelt \$5.00. Rev. Golden \$5.00. Buy blanks for granting Church letters. Pay all expenses of getting minutes printed. And other expenses of the Association. Then use what the Treasurer sees fit to spend for Foreign Missions and the Bible Colloge at Nashville, Tenn.

EDNA LAWRENCE

EDNA BEASLEY

J. D. CALHOUN

COMMITTEE ON SARDIS CHURCH

We your committee appointed to meet with Sardis delegates find the membership of that church not at peace

with one another. We have reason to believe that the lack of harmony is due to preaching in their pulpit doctrine that are contrary to faith and practice of The Free Will Baptist. Therefore be it resolved that the churches of this Association refrain from the use of preachers who do not believe and preach the doctrine of the Free Will Baptist denominations.

J. H. OATES, Chairman

We, the Southeastern Free Will Baptist Association do highly appreciate the hospitality and beautiful flowers of the New Zion Church and Hickory Grove Church during the Association.

EVELYN SUTTON, Associate Clerk

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 infallable 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 FAITH—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 was 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 officer 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 modera-

tor 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.