

MINUTES

— OF THE —

SEVENTY-FIFTH ANNUAL SESSION

— OF —

Southeastern Free Will Baptist Association

WHICH CONVENED WITH
HOLMES CHURCH
Friday before the Third Sunday

In October, 1953

— AND —

GOODWATER CHURCH
Saturday before the Third Sunday

In October, 1953

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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 Friendship Church, Eufaula,
Alabama, Friday and Saturday before the Third Sunday
in October, 1954.

UNION MEETING MINUTES OF 1953

Song Service by Congregation.

Bro. Bob Stokes gave the welcome address.

Rev. Reyland brought the sermon of the morning. He gave a wonderful talk about our orphanage in Eldridge, Alabama.

Rev. Chester Pelt asked the blessing on an offering taken in behalf of our orphanage in the amount of \$57.00.

Songs by Congregation.

Rev. Reyland dismissed for the noon hour.

AFTERNOON

Songs by Congregation.

Rev. P. A. Brackin gave a very good devotional.

Sister Blondell gave a talk on "The Light of Truth In Our Home."

Song Service.

Rev. J. T. Tetters brought the sermon of the afternoon "What Kind of Homes Are We Building?"

A rising vote of thanks was given to Union Grove Church for a wonderful day.

Bro. C. A. Arnold led the closing prayer.

UNION MEETING

Fifth Sunday, August 29, 1954

To be held with Zion Church, Tumbleton, Alabama.

Speaker—Rev. Roy O'Donnell.

Program to be arranged by Zion Church.

— PROGRAM —

of the

SOUTHEASTERN FREE WILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

to be held with

FRIENDSHIP FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH

Fri. and Sat. before 3rd Sun. in October, 1954

Eufaula, Alabama

FRIDAY—

10:00—Congregational Singing
 Devotional Kenneth Phillips
 Welcome Address Jo Anne Morris
 Response Durward Adkinson
 Song Service

11:30—Sermon Roy O'Donnell

12:30—Lunch

1:30—Song Service

Call For Church Letters

Seating Of Delegates

Appointing Committees

Memorial Service — Directed by Moderator and
 assisted by Mrs. Eloise Commander and
 Mrs. Linnie Stokes

2:30—Sermon T. B. Melleŕette
 Assignment of Homes

3:30—Adjournment

FRIDAY NIGHT—

7:30—Song Service

8:00—Sermon Daniel Pelt

9:00—Adjournment

SATURDAY—

9:30—Call to Order by Moderator

Devotional Jim Pelt

Special Music by The Stanley Family

10:00—Foreign Missions Mrs. Durward Long

10:15—Women's Auxiliary Work Mrs. Ruby Pelt

10:30—Business Session

11:30—Sermon Durward Long

12:30—Lunch

1:30—Song Service

Sunday School Report Vivian Robertson

League Report Henry Hines

2:00—Business Session

3:00—Adjournment

— MINUTES —

of the

SOUTHEASTERN FREE WILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

which met in its

SEVENTY-FIFTH SESSION

with

HOLMES CHURCH at Arifton, Alabama

FRIDAY MORNING

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

Rev. John Golden brought the morning devotional—
 "The Lord is Our Leader and Guide."

Bro. Durward Adkinson brought the Welcome Address. Durward invited Christ as the honor guest for the day. It was a very inspiring message.

Sister Mary McKnight gave a very nice response.

More songs were sung by the congregation.

Rev. D. F. Pelt brought the sermon of the morning. His message was on "Prayer." "Prayer is our pathway to Heaven." "Let the Bible be the source of our Light and Knowledge." "God is able to do anything that your faith can ask Him to do."

Songs by Congregation.

Rev. Tetter dismissed for lunch.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON

Songs were led by Bro. Gilmore.

Rev. J. T. Tetter brought the afternoon devotional.

Finance Committee was appointed: Bro. Chester Mathews, Sister Ruth Oates and Bro. Henry Garner.

Church Letters were received and read by Bros. Argol Garner and Durward Adkinson.

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

Visiting preachers were: Rev. Leroy Knighten, Chattahoochee Association and Rev. J. T. Tetter, Midway Association.

The following committees were appointed:

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE — Sis. Clara Belcher, Bro. Lester Thomley, Sis. Irene Wise.

FINANCE COMMITTEE—Sis. Ruth Oates, Bro. Henry Garner, Bro. W. C. Mathews.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE — Bros. Argol Garner,

V. V. Sutton, Sister Will Beasley.

AUXILIARY COMMITTEE — Bro. W. W. Bush, Sis. Pauline Coates, Sis. Mary McKnight.

COMPLYING COMMITTEE — Sis. Ellie Mae Shelly, Sis. Mauline Oates, Bro. Durward Adkinson, Rev. Leroy Knighten brought a wonderful sermon for the afternoon.

Rev. D. F. Pelt made a very touching talk in honor of our deceased. "Precious Memories" was sung in remembrance of the deceased.

Motion was made to dismiss and meet with Goodwater Church on Saturday.

SATURDAY MORNING

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

The morning devotional was brought by Rev. S. T. Shutes. "The Lord Is My Shepherd I Shall Not Want."

Sister Irene Wise gave the Welcome Address.

Sister Clara Belcher gave a wonderful response.

The Moderator declared the house in order for business and the letter from Pilgrim Rest was read and adopted and delegates seated.

Visiting preachers were recognized:

Rev. K. V. Shutes Midway Association

Rev. Roy O'Donnell

Rev. S. T. Shutes Midway Association

Sister K. V. Shutes brought a good talk on Woman's Work.

Rev. K. V. Shutes led the Congregation in prayer.

Rev. S. T. Shutes and Sister K. V. Shutes sang a special song: "Nailed To The Cross."

Rev. K. V. Shutes brought the Morning Sermon. It was filled with spirit.

Songs by Congregation.

An intermission of an hour was given for lunch.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON

The Moderator declared the house in order for business.

Singing by Congregation led by Rev. S. T. Shutes.

Rev. Roy O'Donnell led the Congregation in prayer.

Report on Auxiliary was given and adopted.

Leagues Organized 6

Sunday Schools 8

Ladies' Auxiliary 4

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

Resolutions Committee Report was given and adopted.

Be it resolved that the Association pay \$20.00 on the delegate expense to the Association.

Be it resolved that our Association ask for the next session of the State Association. We ask that the Executive Committee select the best church for the State Association at a later date, and a report from Miscellaneous Committee be printed in this year's committee.

Be it resolved that Resolution No. 4 of last year call for the building of 2 parsonages, therefore we are asking that a committee be appointed at this Association and a date for the meeting for the same be set for the purpose of selecting sites and assessing each church a certain amount to contribute on the parsonage and this will be property of our Association.

Be it resolved the Resolution No. 1 of last year remain in our minutes.

That our Association adopt a budget plan. We suggest the following: 60 percent, Pastors Salary; 10 percent Building Fund; 10 percent General Church Fund; 10 percent Education; 10 percent Missions.

Be it resolved that each church contact her members who have moved away and their letters are still there be contacted by a committee or through the mail twice a year.

Respectively submitted by,
SISTER CLARA BELCHER
BRO. LESTER THOMLEY
SISTER IRENE WISE

A motion was made and adopted to put one member from every church on a committee to see about the parsonage Saturday before the 1st Sunday in December to meet at the courthouse in Abbeville, at 10:00 o'clock.

FINANCE REPORT FOR 1953

Finance Report was given and adopted:

Old Balance \$ 64.23

Received from Churches 166.00

Received from Orphanage at

Association & Union Meeting 133.65

TOTAL \$363.88

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 Colquitt, Ga.	Jewell Thomley Newton, Ala.	W. C. Mathews, Loyd White, Erwin Glour, Lester Thomley and Boyd Deese	60	\$ 781.37		20	2	154	\$12.50	\$2.50	\$ 94.54	35
Chester Chapel.....	P. A. Brackins Newville, Ala.	Mary J. Calhoun Abbeville, Ala.	J. C. Calhoun, Ruby Calhoun and Pauline Coates	45	203.51		4		46	8.00	2.00	25.00	45
Mt. Zion	P. E. Knighten Phenix City, Ala.	Mary Cox Eufaula, Ala.	Mrs. A. B. Stanley, George Lewis and Mrs. Clara Belcher		186.36		2		106	7.50	7.50		
Holmes.....	Kenneth Phillips Ozark, Ala.	Eloise Commander Ariton, Ala.	Vester Sutton and Durward Adkinson	35	478.75	1			29	15.00		463.75	30
Pleasant Hill.....	Paul Mallory Midland Cty, Ala.	Mrs. C. E. Watson Headland, Ala.	Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Watson, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Farmer	27	1,850.00		3		97	4.00	2.00	9.00	
Union Grove.....	P. E. Knighten Phenix City, Ala.	Dorothy Hamilton Abbeville, Ala.	Roy McKnight, Margaret Weathers, Lucy Kirkland, Willie Herndon and Theron Howell	50	327.45	2	7	1	204	15.00		532.20	35
Sardis.....	J. L. Tetter Blakely, Ga.	Chery Lee Braswell Clayton, Ala.	Hubert Clark, Fred Braswell, William Bush and Charles Gilmore	46	342.09		7		106	10.00	5.00	105.00	
Pilgrim Rest.....	W. F. McDuffy Cedar Sprgs, Ga.	Glydas Wilson Abbeville, Ala.	Ruth Smith, Earl Money and Gene Carr		238.65	3	2		158	10.00	5.00	74.91	
Evergreen.....	W. T. Hutto Newton, Ala.	Gaston Baker Ariton, Ala.	Will Beasley, Olvie Beasley and Annie Sutton		226.46	2		2	90	15.00		69.84	
New Zion.....	Chester Pelt Tallahassee, Fla.	Ruth Oates Headland, Ala.	Myrtle Brackin, Ella Mae Shelley, Maudine Oates, Mattie Sanders and Jack Shelley	78	510.00	2		2	108	20.00		100.00	55
Friendship.....	Ray O'Donnell Asheville, Ala.	Irene Wise Eufaula, Ala.	Minnie Lee Brown	40	1,365.91	1	6		80	15.00		230.00	40
New Prospect.....	P. E. Knighten Phenix City, Ala.	Francis Trawick Clopton, Ala.	Irene Wise, Azer Carroll, Dowling Carroll and Flauzell Wilkerson		100.00				127	7.00	3.00	50.00	

PAID OUT: Moderator	\$ 15.00
Club	25.00
Minutes and Mailing	47.31
To visiting ministers at	
Association & Union Meeting	45.00
Paid Orphanage at	
Association & Union Meeting	200.00
TOTAL	\$332.31
Leaving A Balance of	\$ 31.57

Respectfully Submitted,
LINNIE J. STOKES, Treasurer

Motion was made and passed to have the club print 300 minutes and the treasurer of church to pay for them.

COMPLYING REPORT

Complying report was given and adopted:

Total Members of All Churches	1,315
Received in One Year	51
Dismissed in One Year	11
Paid Pastors	\$4,968.55
Other Donations	\$3,467.49
Paid for Association and Minutes	\$190.00
Leagues	6
Sunday Schools	8
Died	7

NOMINATING REPORT

We your Committee on Nominating make the following report:

We nominate Friendship Church, Eufaula, Alabama for the next Association both days.

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 ASSOCIATION

CHATTAHOOCHEE—Rev. J. H. Golden.

SALEM—Rev. D. F. Pelt.

STATE ASSOCIATION—Sister Olive Beasley, Sister Eloise Commander.

MIDWAY — Sister Linnie Stokes, Sister Mary McKnight.

STATE LINE — Bro. Durward Adkinson, Bro. Will Beasley.

Program for Association to be planned by members of Friendship Church.

An offering was taken at this time for the orphanage \$27.02.

A rising vote of thanks was given to Holmes Church and Goodwater Church for the wonderful days together.

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 have 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 those who are of the household of faith, but we should remember that relations to each other are closer and the obligations more blinding 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 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 the 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 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 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.