

MINUTES

of the

Twenty-First Annual Session

of the

Southern Union Association United Free Will Baptist Church of Christ

Held With

New Shady Grove Church

7 Miles S. E. Andalusia, Covington County, Alabama

September 26, 27, 28, 1947

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G. C. Wilkinson	- - - - -	Moderator
G. D. McVay	- - - - -	Assistant Moderator
J. B. Bass	- - - - -	Treasurer
Ethel Cooper	- - - - -	Reading Clerk

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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

W. B. Bass	V. L. McGinn	J. Bennett Bass
S. B. Bass	W. J. Sanford	

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Closed to meet with New Bethany Church, 6 miles North of Holt,
Florida, on Friday before the fourth Sunday in
September, 1948, at 10:00.

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ORDER OF CONFERENCE

1. Invite visiting brethren to seats with us.
2. Opportunity for members.
3. Reading of minutes of last conference.
4. Church report acknowledgments.
5. Deacons report..
6. Unfinished business.
7. Miscellaneous business.
8. Motion to adjourn.

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Proceedings

The Twenty-First Annual Session of the Southern Union Association met with New Shady Grove Church, seven miles S. E. Audalusia, September 26, 27 and 28, 1947.

FRIDAY MORNING—11:00

Song by choir. Prayer by J. H. Garvin.

Introductory sermon by A. B. Lawson.

Dismissed for refreshments.

FRIDAY, 1:00 P. M.

Song by choir. Prayer by L. J. Langford. Reading: Romans 8:1-14, by Bruce J. Bass.

The moderator declared the body ready for business. Call for church letters.

Letters read and adopted. Delegates enrolled as follows:

New Shady Grove Church—Mrs. Era Black.

Shady Hill Church—Bruce J. Bass, Flora Bass, Alline Bass, Gaston McVay.

New Bethany Church—G. C. Wilkinson, J. A. Bass, H. M. Bass, Maxie Bass.

ENROLLMENT OF MINISTERS

Ordained ministers present—J. C. Williams, Rt. 5, Andalusia, Ala.; W. A. Wilkinson, Rt. 3, Baker, Fla.; K. Raynor, Milton, Fla.; A. B. Lawson, Rt. 3, Andalusia, Ala.; R. R. Zeigler, Rt. 5, Andalusia, Ala.; F. M. Wright, Opp, Ala.

Ordained ministers absent—E. F. Sanford, Rt. 2, Baker, Fla.; J. F. Taylor, Milton, Fla.; L. T. Lawson, Crestview, Fla.

Licensed ministers, absent, T. A. Johnson, Jacksonville, Fla.

Officers elected as follows:

Moderator	G. C. Wilkinson
Assistant Moderator	G. D. McVay
Clerk	Flora Bass
Treasurer	J. B. Bass
Reading Clerk	Ethel Cooper
Associational Deacons	Quillie Jackson and Virgil McGlaun

Call for petitionary letters. A letter was brought from Rock Hold Church. Received by body.

Delegates, Mrs. R. R. Zeigler, Flora Jackson, Quillie Jackson, J. H. Garvin.

Call for correspondence or report from sister associations. Bro. L. J. Langford and wife, Francis Langford, gave verbal report from Liberty association.

Welcome handshake was given to delegates, ministers and executive committee.

Committees appointed as follows:

DIVINE SERVICE—H. M. Bass, Mrs. Era Black, S. B. Bass and J. H. Garvin.

SUGGESTIONS—J. B. Bass, J. A. Bass, Quillie Jackson.

TEMPERANCE—A. B. Lawson, Mrs. R. R. Zeigler, Alline Bass.

FINANCE—J. B. Bass, W. B. Bass, J. C. Williams, Flora Jackson, Maxie Bass.

SABBATH SCHOOLS—W. A. Wilkinson, Bruce Bass, Mrs. Era Black, R. R. Zeigler, Alline Bass.

RESOLUTIONS—W. B. Bass, S. B. Bass, J. H. Garvin, V. L. McGlaun, W. A. Wilkinson.

OBITUARIES—J. A. Bass, A. B. Lawson, Mrs. R. R. Zeigler, Bruce Bass, Flora Jackson.

A report by the Executive Committee telling how the property of Old Shady Grove Church was sold. The Association approved of the transaction of this business.

W. B. Bass, Chairman.

Minutes of the Council meeting read and adopted. Conference adjourned until 9:00 Saturday morning.

FRIDAY NIGHT

Song by choir. Prayer service led by A. B. Lawson.

Preaching by F. M. Wright, followed by W. A. Wilkinson.

SATURDAY—9:00

Song by choir. Reading: St. John 10:1-14, by Gaston McVay. Prayer by L. J. Langford.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON OBITUARIES

We, your Committee on Obituaries, report as follows: We find one death in the Association in the past year. B. R. Harrelson died June 6, 1947. He was a minister in our Association. We feel that our loss is heaven's gain. Let us live here that we may meet him again in heaven.

J. A. Bass, Chairman.

Report received and committee discharged.

Recess 30:00

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON TEMPERANCE

We, your Committee on Temperance, report as follows: We as church members, being professed followers of Christ, do all that is legal and just

to stamp out the curse of intoxicating drinks. Also, we carry out the Bible standard of being temperate in all things.

A. B. Lawson, Chairman.

Report received and committee discharged.

REPORT OF ASSOCIATION TREASURER

I beg to report as follows: Received \$40.00 minute money; Paid \$20.00 for minutes; Paid Clerk \$5.00; Balance \$15.00. Also received \$50.00 from Executive Committee. Total in treasury, \$65.00.

H. M. Bass.

Report received.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON SABBATH SCHOOLS

We, your Committee on Sabbath Schools, report as follows: We find two active Sunday Schools in our Association, at Shady Hill and New Bethany. The other two churches have organized and expect to start active work next quarter. We believe the foundation of religion is laid in our children's hearts through Sabbath Schools. We, as parents, should go with our children rather than send them. In our effort to get young people to take an active part in church work. We get better results from ones that have Sabbath School experience. We earnestly desire that parents do all in their power to carry on.

W. A. Wilkinson, Chairman.

Report received and committee discharged.

Saturday morning recess for preaching service.

Song by choir. Prayer by Melvin Kilpatrick. Preaching by R. R. Zeigler.

Recess for refreshments until 1:00 p. m.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON

Song by choir. Prayer by Gaston McVay.

Moderator declared body ready for business.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON SUGGESTIONS

We, your Committee on Suggestions, report as follows: The Council meeting be held with Rock Hill Church, 10 miles South of Andalusia, Ala., on third Sunday and Saturday before in July, 1948, at 10:00. The Association be held at New Bethany Church, 6 miles North of Holt, Fla., beginning at 10:00 a. m., Friday before fourth Sunday in September. Sunday School Convention be held at Shady Hill Church, 12 miles South of Andalusia, Ala., on third Sunday in May. We suggest L. T. Lawson preach introductory sermon. If absent, F. M. Wright. We suggest that the clerk be paid all that is left in treasury after minutes are paid for up to the amount of \$5.00.

Quillie Jackson, Chairman.

Report received and committee discharged.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON RESOLUTIONS

We, your Committee on Resolutions, beg to report as follows:

First—Be it resolved that no preacher be in order that unite in Holy Bonds of Matrimony any person who has been divorced, whose husband or wife is still living, unless it be proven for cause of fornication.

Second—Each church appoint four delegates each year to the Council meeting and to the Association.

Third—We also suggest that Sunday School classes from each Church meet one day each year and have a Sunday School Convention.

Fourth—That each preacher in our Association bring in a report of his year's work to the annual Conference, giving number of sermons preached, number of members received, number miles traveled, money received, traveling expenses, funerals preached, couples married and churches organized.

W. B. Bass, Chairman.

Report received and committee discharged.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

We, your Committee on Finance, report as follows:

New Bethany -----	\$ 16.50
Shady Hill -----	12.00
Shady Grove -----	11.15
Rockhole -----	6.25
From the Treasurer -----	65.00
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Total -----	\$110.90

J. Bennett Bass, Chairman.

Report received and committee discharged.

The Association received the deeds to Rockhold Church. The treasurer is to pay to have the deeds recorded.

Conference adjourned until Sunday morning.

SATURDAY NIGHT

Song by choir. Prayer Service. Preaching by Melvin Kilpatrick.

SUNDAY MORNING

Song by choir. Prayer service. Preaching by Bro. Woodroe Wilkinson, followed by Bro. R. R. Zeigler.

RESOLUTION OF THANKS

We, the delegates, ministers and executive committee composing the twenty-first annual session of the Southern Union Association, take this method of expressing our heartfelt thanks and appreciation to the kind and courteous people of New Shady Grove Community, for the gracious hospi-

talities shown us during the time we spent with them. We pray God's richest blessings on each of them.

Flora Bass, Clerk.

Ministers and delegates extended to each other the parting hand.

ARTICLES OF FAITH

1. As to God—One God and Father of all. Eph. 4:6.
2. As to the Scripture—All Scripture is given by inspiration of God. 2 Tim. 3:16.
3. As to the Freedom of the Will—Ye will not come unto Me. John 5:40. Whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely. Rev. 22:17.
4. As to the Conditions of Salvation—He (Christ) died for all. II Cor. 5:15. For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. Rom. 10:13. For in due season we shall reap if we faint not. Gal. 6:9. Be thou faithful unto death and I will give thee a crown of life. Rev. 2:10.
5. As to Election—God is no respecter of persons, but in every nation he that feareth Him and worketh righteousness is accepted with Him. Acts 10:34-35.
6. As to Grace—For the Grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men. Titus 2:11. For by Grace are ye saved through faith. Eph. 2:8.
7. As to Faith—Justified by Faith. Rom. 5:1. This is the victory which overcometh the world, even our faith. 1st John 5:4.
8. As to Works—Faith without works is dead. James 2:6. God hath before ordained that we should walk in them. Eph. 2:10.
9. As to Baptism—And they went down both into the water and when they were come up out of the water. Acts 8:39. We are buried with Him by Baptism unto death. Rom. 6:4.
10. As to Subject to Baptism—If thou believest with all thine heart thou mayest. Acts 8:39. So that anyone of you will give an account of himself unto God. Rom. 14:12.
11. As to the Oneness of the Christian Church—Is Christ divided? I Cor. 1:33. I am the vine, ye are the branches. John 15:5. That they may be one as we are one. John 17:11-21. There is one body and one spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling. Eph. 4:4.
12. As to Communion—This do in remembrance of me. Luke 22:19. But let a man examine himself and so let him eat the bread and drink of the cup. I Cor. 11:28. Let no man therefore judge you. Col. 2:61.
13. As to the Resurrection—For the hour cometh in which all that are in the grave shall hear His voice and shall come forth. John 5:28. For the trumpet shall sound and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. I Cor. 15:52.

14. As to the Judgment, Reward and Punishment—For we shall stand before the judgment seat of Christ. Rom. 14:10. And these shall go away into everlasting punishment but the righteous into life eternal. Matt. 25:46.

15. As to Feet Washing—Ye also ought to wash one another's feet. John 13:14. For I have given you an example. John 13:15. Verily, verily, I say unto you, the servant is no greater than his Lord. John 13:16. If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them. John 13:17. Because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example. I Peter 2:21.

CHURCH COVENANT

In order to have a more perfect and free Christian love and fellowship for each other, and to advance the cause of our Lord and Master, we do hereby agree and covenant by the help of God, our Father, and aided by the Holy Spirit, to keep the ordinances, precepts and examples as laid down in the New Testament of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

AS TO RULE—ARTICLE 1

Section 1. When a sufficient number of members are ready for organization the Articles of Faith and Church Covenant shall be read, and if adopted the right hand of fellowship shall be extended and after prayer they shall proceed to the election of officers, after which they shall be declared organized and ready for business.

Section 2. No church shall be organized with less than three male members, or within three miles of another church of the same faith, unless in towns or cities.

Section 3. The officers of a church shall be a pastor, one or more deacons and a clerk and treasurer, and not less than three trustees.

Section 4. The church shall call their pastor at the next conference preceding the last regular conference in the Associational year unless in case of a vacancy; in such case they may call a conference for that purpose.

Section 5. Any church in case of necessity may call a conference and elect one of their members or a visiting minister as moderator.

Section 6. The church may hold a conference as often as it deems it necessary.

Section 7. It is suggested that the church commune and wash the members' feet as often as convenient, and it shall not be postponed on account of disobedient members.

Section 8. The church shall not try a member without a hearing unless said member refuses to attend the conference when notified to do so.

Section 9. The church may grant a license to any member in good standing to preach the gospel if it deems him worthy and competent, and said

license shall be good as long as he is an advantage to the cause, but he shall be ordained only by the recommendation or order of the church.

Section 10. When ministers or deacons are to be ordained the church shall call a presbytery or instruct their pastor to do so for that purpose. And said presbytery shall be composed of two ministers or one minister and two deacons.

Section 11. Deacons shall not be ordained until they are tried.

Section 12. Each minister shall be a member of some live church and in good standing with the church.

Section 13. It shall be the duty of every member, male or female, to attend each conference meeting if they can, for on that day the pastor is expected to instruct the church in a spiritual manner by giving plain and pointed lessons on doctrine and discipline, and the rule of holy living and the church members' duties.

Section 14. No member shall give or attend card parties or attend other places of worldly amusement, or allow such things to be held in their homes, and drunkenness is strictly forbidden.

ARTICLE 2

Section 1. The Pastor shall attend his church monthly unless providentially hindered, and shall sit as moderator and see that justice is done, but he may appoint some suitable brother to sit in his stead when he thinks proper for the cause. He shall also hold protracted meeting with his churches once a year.

Section 2. The deacons shall be elected by the church and shall hold offices at the direction of the church; they shall watch over the flock, advise the unruly members and report such to the church in conference when necessary, and may administer the ordinance of baptism; they shall make all necessary arrangements for the communion, look into the needs of the church and the support of the pastor; they shall take notice of such members as refuse or neglect to partake of the Lord's Supper and wash each other's feet, and endeavor to ascertain the cause that the same may be laid before the church conference if necessary.

Section 3. The clerk shall be elected by the church and shall hold office at the discretion of the church; he shall keep a record of the members and a minute of the business transactions of the church and shall read same at the conference as often as the church may demand, and shall turn all books and papers to his successor in office.

Section 4. The treasurer shall be elected by the church, shall hold office at the will of the church, shall hold all monies paid into the church for general expenses, and pay out the same only on an order from the church in conference, and shall turn over all money and papers to his successor.

Section 5. The trustees shall be elected by the church and shall hold of-

for two years and until their successor are elected, unless removed for cause; they have charge of the deeds and all other church property, and shall look after the repairs of the church, but they cannot sell or otherwise dispose of the church property without an order from the church in conference.

Section 6. No one shall be received in the church unless scripturally baptized by an ordained baptizer.

Section 7. Members must pay all debts contracted by them or make satisfactory arrangements with their creditors, and they shall help pay their pastors.

Section 8. We recommend that each church elect a Home Mission Treasurer and all money collected for Home Missions be retained in the church and paid out only by order of the church.

Section 9. No preacher has a right to organize and bring a church into our Association without the arm of a church in our Association to help organize and presbytery same as for ordaining ministers or deacon.

Section 10. We recommend that each ordained minister in our Association obtain credentials showing denomination that ordained them, name of church, county and state. Also presbytery that ordained them if possible.

Section 11. It is required of each church to do everything possible to promote religious work by giving our young members an opportunity and encouraging them to speak in public in behalf of our Saviour. And each church shall be required to make a report of what they have done along this line at the regular associational conference.

Section 12. Each church shall encourage its members to attend every conference possible, to study minutes, follow the rules and the articles of faith be read in the church at least once a year.

Section 13. No member shall leave the house without sufficient cause, nor engage in conversation without being subject to be called to order by the moderator.

Section 14. All discussions in conference must be conducted in conference with calmness and good feelings: and those who speak must arise to their feet and address the moderator and keep the point in debate.

Section 15. No member shall speak more than twice on the same subject without permission from the moderator nor shall the remarks of anyone be unreasonably long.

Section 16. When the moderator speaks he shall nominate some other moderator in his stead.

Section 17. No one shall be interrupted while speaking unless it is necessary to call him to order.

STATISTICAL TABLE FOR YEAR OF 1947-48
SOUTHERN UNION ASSOCIATION

Churches and Pastors	Clerks and Postoffice	Time of Meeting	Present Members	Paid Pastor	Home Missions	Paid for Minutes
New Bethany— W. A. Wilkinson-----	Ottie Lee Wilkinson, R-1, Holt, Fla. -----	Fourth Sunday-----	48	\$67.50	\$66.06	\$16.50
Shady Grove— E. F. Sanford-----	Catherine Lawson, Andalusia, Ala. -----	First Sunday-----	96	63.48	28.50	11.15
Shady Hill— F. M. Wright-----	Ethel R. Cooper, Andalusia, Ala. -----	Second Sunday-----	19	83.34	53.74	12.00
Rock Hold— E. E. Brooks-----	Horace Jackson, Andalusia, Ala. -----	Third Sunday-----	9	-----	37.79	6.25