

File

MINUTES
OF THE
TWENTY-THIRD ANNUAL SESSION
OF THE
SOUTHERN UNION ASSOCIATION
UNITED FREE WILL BAPTIST
CHURCH OF CHRIST

Held With,
SHADY HILL CHURCH

12 1-2 Miles South of Andalusia, Alabama

SEPTEMBER 23, 24, 25, 1949

OFFICERS

Moderator.....E. F. Sanford
Assistant Moderator.....Glen C. Wilkinson
Clerk.....Ethel C. Cooper
Treasurer.....J. Bennett Bass
Reading Clerk.....Carrie Lou Bass

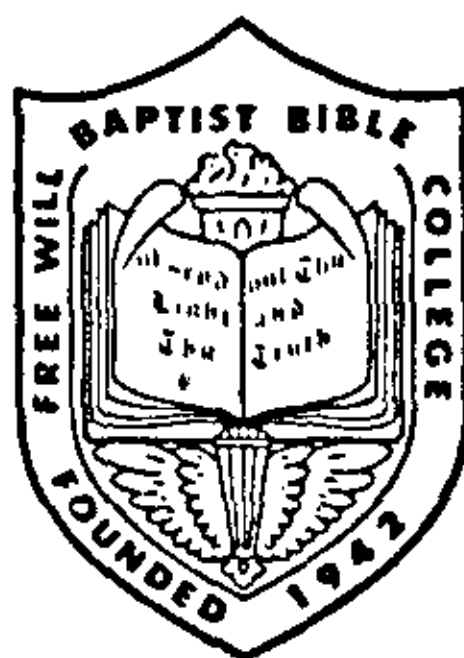
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

W. B. Bass — V. L. McGlaun — J. Bennett Bass
S. B. Bass — W. J. Sanford

Closed to meet with Rockhold Church 11 miles
south of Andalusia, Alabama, on Friday morning
before the Fourth Sunday in September, 1950.

THE FREE WILL BAPTIST GEM, MONETT, MO.

200 - Dec. 21, 1949
\$28.90



FREE WILL BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE

Presented by

Rev. Damon Dodd

ORDER OF CONFERENCE

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

PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of the Twenty-Third Annual Session of the Southern Union Association, United Free Will Baptist Church of Christ, held with Shady Hill Church 12½ miles south of Andalusia, Alabama, September 23, 24, 25, 1949.

Friday—11:00 A. M.

Song service by choir. Prayer by L. T. Lawson. Introductory sermon by W. A. Wilkinson. Prayer by E. F. Sanford. Dismissed for refreshments.

Friday—1:00 P. M.

Song service by choir. Bible reading, Psalm 137, by G. D. McVey. Prayer by R. R. Zeiglar.

Glen C. Wilkinson, Moderator, declared body ready for business.

Call for Church letters. Letters read and adopted.

Call for petitionary letters. Received letter from First Free Will Baptist Church of Crestview, Fla. Letter received as read and church received into the Association.

Delegates enrolled as follows:

New Shady Grove—Mrs. Era Black, Anna McGlaun.

New Bethany—J. A. Bass, Carrie Lou Bass, Oattie Lee Wilkinson, Naomi Wilkinson.

Rockhold—Zadie Zeiglar, Ford Lewis.

Shady Hill—Mavis McVey, Jesse Teel, Mattie Johnson, Florence Bass.

First Free Will Baptist Church of Crestview—Mrs L. T. Lawson.

Enrollment of Ministers:

Ordained ministers present—A. B. Lawson, Rt. 8, Andalusia, Ala.; L. T. Lawson, Box 766, N. Barrow St., Crestview, Fla.; J. C. Williams, Rt. 5, Andalusia, Ala.; R. R. Zeiglar, Rt. 5, Andalusia, Ala.; E. F. Sanford, Box 400, Baker, Fla.; W. A. Wilkinson, Rt. 3, Baker, Fla.

Visiting ministers—G. W. Martin, Rt. 4, Box 73, Brewton, Ala.; E. E. Brooks, Uriah, Ala., Rt. 1, Box 132. From Liberty No. 1 Association.

Ordained ministers absent—K. Rainer, Milton, Fla.; F. M. Wright, Opp, Ala.

Officers were elected as follows:

E. F. Sanford, Moderator; Glen C. Wilkinson, Assistant Moderator; Ethel R. Cooper, Clerk; J. Bennett Bass, Treasurer; Carrie Lou Bass, Reading Clerk. Associational Deacons—Stacy B. Bass and Ford Lewis.

Welcome handshake given to Ministers, Delegates, and Executive Committee.

Call for letters from sister associations. Bro. G. W. Martin gave verbal report from Liberty No. 1 Association.

Recess for 10 minutes.

Committees appointed as follows:

DIVINE SERVICE—S. B. Bass, Oattie Lee Wilkinson, Anna McGlaun, Zadie Zeiglar, Florence Bass.

SUGGESTIONS—W. B. Bass, Mattie Johnson, R. R. Zeiglar, G. W. Martin, Mrs. Era Black.

TEMPERANCE—Mavis McVey, Carrie Lou Bass, J. C. Williams, Ford Lewis.

FINANCE—G. D. McVey, J. A. Bass, A. B. Lawson, L. T. Lawson.

RESOLUTIONS—W. A. Wilkinson, L. T. Lawson, Zadie Zeiglar, J. Bennett Bass, Anna McGlaun.

OBITUARIES—Glen C. Wilkinson, Flora Bass, R. R. Zeiglar, Mrs. Era Black, Jesse Teel.

SABBATH SCHOOLS—Naomi Wilkinson, Anna McGlaun, Mavis McVey, Ford Lewis.

Body called to order by Moderator, E. F. Sanford.

Report of Committee on Divine Service:

Friday night—Preaching service opened by L. T. Law-

son; closed by A. B. Lawson. Saturday at 11:00—Service opened by G. W. Martin; closed by R. R. Zeiglar. Saturday night—Service opened by G. D. McVey; closed by W. A. Wilkinson. Sunday at 11:00—Service opened by Glen C. Wilkinson; closed by E. E. Brooks.

Adjourned to meet at first dark for service and to meet at 9:00 a.m. Saturday to begin business.

Friday Night Service

Song service by choir. Prayer service and preaching opened by L. T. Lawson; closed by A. B. Lawson.

Saturday—9:00 A. M.

Song service by choir. Prayer by E. E. Brooks. Scripture reading, John 10:1-14 by Wade Wilkinson.

Body declared ready for business by E. F. Sanford, Moderator.

Recessed for committees to work on reports.

Saturday—11:00 A. M.

Song service by choir. Prayer service. Preaching service opened by Bro. G. W. Martin; closed by Bro. R. R. Zeiglar.

Dismissed for refreshments.

Saturday—1:00 P. M.

Song service by choir. Scripture reading, John 9:1-15, by E. E. Brooks. Prayer by Bro. Garrett.

Body declared ready for business by Moderator, E. F. Sanford.

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 that ministers, deacons and lay members put forth a greater effort to stamp out this curse, and that we also carry out the Bible standard of being temperate in all things.

Mavis McVey, Chairman

Report received with amendment. Committee discharged.

Report of Committee on Sabbath Schools:

We, your Committee on Sabbath Schools, report as follows:

We find five active Sunday Schools in our Associa-

tion; at Rockhold, New Bethany, Shady Hill, New Shady Grove, and First Free Will Baptist Church of Crestview. 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 to Sabbath School. 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 the parents do all in their power to carry on. We suggest that each church put on a drive to try to get more children from their communities to come to their Sabbath Schools by having a Transportation Committee to carry out the drive.

Naomi Wilkinson, Chairman

Report received and committee discharged.

Report of Committee on Suggestions:

We suggest the Council Meeting meet at New Bethany Church on Saturday before the Third Sunday in July, 1950, six miles west of Baker, Fla.

The Association meet with Rockhold Church 11 miles south of Andalusia, Ala., on Friday morning before the Fourth Sunday in September, 1950.

The Sunday School Convention meet with Shady Grove Church six miles southeast of Andalusia, Ala., on the Second Sunday in June, 1950.

We suggest E. F. Sanford preach the introductory sermon, or if absent, R. R. Zeiglar.

We suggest that the Clerk be paid out of the treasury up to the amount of \$5.00.

We suggest that we pay any preacher that brings a new church in good standing into this Association \$15.00 for part payment on expenses.

W. B. Bass, Chairman

Report received and committee discharged.

Report of Treasurer:

I, your Treasurer, report as follows:

In treasury.....	\$120.20
Paid for Minutes.....	\$ 20.20
Paid Clerk.....	5.00
Total	25.20
Balance	\$ 95.00

Gaston D. McVey, Treasurer

Report received as read.

Report of Committee on Finance:

We, your Committee on Finance report as follows:

Greatview Church.....	\$ 2.00
Shady Hill.....	8.00
Shady Grove.....	5.90
Rockhold	6.25
New Bethany.....	13.00

Total	\$ 35.15
Balance in Treasury.....	95.00

Total in Treasury.....	\$130.15
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Gaston D. McVey, Chairman

Report received and committee discharged.

Report of Year's Work of W. A. Wilkinson.

I beg to report my year's work as follows: Number of sermons preached, 53; number of members by baptism, 2; miles traveled, approximately 1,750; money received, \$101.92; traveling expenses, \$35.83; funerals, none; marriages, none; churches organized, none.

W. A. Wilkinson

Report received as read.

Call for reading of minutes of Council Meeting. Minutes read and adopted.

Report of Year's Work of R. R. Zeiglar:

To the Southern Union Annual session of the United Free Will Baptist Association, to convene with Shady Hill Church 12½ miles south of Andalusia, Ala., in Covington County, I beg to report as follows: Miles traveled, 1,909, sermons preached, 65, members received, 3; number baptized, 4; churches organized, none, money received, \$99.51; railroad fare, \$33.35; funerals preached, 3. Respectfully,

R. R. Zeiglar

Report received as read.

Recessed for few minutes. Body called to order by Moderator, E. F. Sanford.

Report of Year's Work of E. F. Sanford:

I beg to report my year's work as follows: Miles traveled, 768; expenses, \$40.00; amount received, \$127.86; number of sermons, 92; members received, 4; funerals preached, 1; marriages, none.

E. F. Sanford

Report received as read.

Report of Committee on Obituaries:

We, your Committee on Obituaries, report as follows:

We find four deaths in our association: Sister Edna Brownlee died June 13th at the age of 81. Brother J. O. Posey died May 29th at the age of 62. Brother Joe Wilson died January 16th at the age of 82. Rev. J. F. Taylor died November 10th, 1948 at the age of 77.

These Brothers and Sisters lived a long and useful life here on earth and we feel this great loss here, but our loss is heavens gain. Let us live here that we shall meet them in the life to come.

Glen C. Wilkinson, Chairman

Report received and committee discharged.

Report of Committee on Resolutions:

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

First—Be it resolved that no preacher be in order to 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. A. Wilkinson, Chairman

Report received and committee discharged.

Conference voted to have 200 minutes printed.

Conference adjourned to meet tomorrow, Sunday at 11:00 o'clock.

Saturday Night Service

Song service by choir. Prayer service. Preaching service opened by Gaston D. McVey and closed by W. A. Wilkinson.

Sunday Morning Service

Sunday School. Song service and prayer service.

Preaching service opened by Glen C. Wilkinson and closed by E. E. Brooks.

Resolution of Thanks:

We, the Ministers, Executive Committee and Delegates composing the Twenty-Third Session of the Southern Union Association, take this method of expressing our heart felt thanks and appreciation to the kind and courteous people of Shady Hill community for the gracious hospitality shown us during our stay with them. We pray God's richest blessings on each of them.

Ethel Cooper, Associational Clerk
Ministers, Delegates and Executive Committee 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. II 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 Condition 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. I 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. 2:16.

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

Sec. 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.

Sec. 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.

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

Sec. 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.

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

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

Sec. 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.

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

Sec. 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.

Sec. 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.

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

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

Sec. 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 special manner by giving plain and pointed lessons on doctrine and discipline, and the rule of holy

living and the church members' duties.

Sec. 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

Sec. 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 a protracted meeting with his churches once a year.

Sec. 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.

Sec. 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 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 at once.

Sec. 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.

Sec. 5. The trustees shall be elected by the church and shall hold office for two years and until their successors 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.

Sec. 6. No one shall be received in the church unless

scripturally baptized by an ordained baptizer.

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

Sec. 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.

Sec. 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 deacons.

Sec. 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.

Sec. 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.

Sec. 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.

Sec. 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.

Sec. 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.

Sec. 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.

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

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

STATISTICAL TABLE FOR YEAR OF 1949-50

CHURCHES And PASTORS	CLERKS And ADDRESS	TIME Of MEETING	Present Members..	Paid Pastor	Home Missions	Paid for Minutes..
Shady Grove E. E. Brooks....	Anna McGlaun Rt. 3, Andalusia, Ala.	First Sunday.....	96	\$29.00	\$ 81.47	\$ 5.90
New Bethany E. E. Brooks....	Ottie Lee Wilkinson Rt.1, Holt, Fla.	Fourth Sunday....	46	71.13	89.05	13.00
Rockhold W. A. Wilkinson.	Flora Jackson Rt. 5, Andalusia, Ala.	Third Sunday.....	23	50.19	168.70	6.25
First F.W.B. Church Of Crestview E. E. Brooks....	Margaret Lawson 766 N. Barrow St. Crestview, Fla.	Third Sunday.....	10	50.00	1,000.00	2.00
Shady Hill W. A. Wilkinson.	Flora Bass Rt. 5, Andalusia, Ala.	Second Sunday....	44	77.86	147.48	8.00