

# MINUTES

Of The

## Twenty-Fifth Annual Session

Of The

## Southern Union Association United

## Free Will Baptist

## Church Of Christ

Held With

## New Shady Grove Church

3½ Miles South East of Andalusia Alabama

## Sept. 21, 22, 23, 1951

### Officers

Moderator \_\_\_\_\_ W. A. Wilkinson  
Assistant Moderator \_\_\_\_\_ E. F. Sanford  
Clerk \_\_\_\_\_ Betty Bass  
Treasurer \_\_\_\_\_ G. D. McVay  
Reading Clerk \_\_\_\_\_ Wade Wilkinson

### Executive Committee

W. B. Bass, V. L. McGlaun, J. Bermitt Bass  
S. B. Bass, W. J. Sanford

Closed to meet with New Bethany Church 7½ miles West of Baker, Fla., on Friday morning before the fourth Sunday in September 1952.

# 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.

## PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of the twenty-fifth annual session of the Southern Union Association, United Free Will Baptist Church of Christ, held with New Shady Grove Church, 6 miles South East of Andalusia, Alabama, September 21, 22, 23, 1951.

**FRIDAY, 11:00 A.M.**

Song Service by Choir.

Prayer by Rev. R. R. Ziglar.

Song by Choir.

Prayer by Rev. G. D. McVay

Introductory sermon by Rev. G. D. McVay.

Song by Choir.

Dismissed for refreshments by Rev. E. E. Brooks.

**FRIDAY, 1:00 P.M.**

Song Service by Choir.

Bible reading by Sister Betty Bass — Hebrew 13: 1-8

Prayer by Bro. J. C. Williams.

Body declared ready for business by moderator, Rev. G. D. McVay

Inviteing visiting brethren to seat with us.

Call for Church letters.

All letters read and adopted.

Recess for 10 minutes

Delegates enrolled as follows: New Shady Grove—Sister Era Black, Sister J. C. Williams, F. W. B. Church of Crestview—Sister Margaret Lawson, Brother A. E. Owens, Sister Fannie Owens. Rock Hole—Brother Ford

Lewis, Brother Henry Garrett, Sister Ziglar, Brother Hollie Garvin.  
Shady Hill—Sister Alline Bass, Sister Flara Bass, Sister Betty Bass,  
New Bethany—Brother H. M. Bass, Brother J. A. Bass, Sister Genola  
Spence, Sister Lorine Wilkinson,

Enrollment of Ministers—A. B. Lawson, J. C. Williams, R. R. Ziglar,  
E. F. Sanford, W. A. Wilkinson, G. D. McVay,

Visiting Ministers—D. L. Tolbert, Rt. 2, Brewton, Ala. — E. E. Brooks,  
Uriah, Ala. — G. W. Martin, Rt. 4, Brewton, Ala.

Ordained Ministers absent — F. M. Wright, L. T. Lawson, E. J. Smith

Welcome handshake given to delegates, ministers and executive committee.

Officers elected as follows: Moderator, W. A. Wilkinson — Assistant Moderator, E. F. Sanford — Clerk Betty Bass — Treasurer G. D. McVay — Reading Clerk, Wade Wilkinson — Associational deacons, J. A. Bass, Hollie Garvin.

Committees appointed as follows: Divine Service, Flara Bass, Era Black, Ford Lewis, A. E. Owens, H. M. Bass.

Obituaries: J. Bennitt Bass, Genola Spence, Wade Wilkinson, Henry Garrett, Flara Bass

Finance: G. D. McVay, Lorene Wilkinson, S. B. Bass, R. R. Ziglar, V. L. McGlaun.

Sabbath Schools: Alline Bass, Fannie Owens, Era Black, Mrs. R. R. Ziglar, Lorene Wilkinson.

Suggestions: Genola Spence, E. E. Brooks, J. Bennitt Bass, R. R. Ziglar, Fannie Owens,

Temperance: G. W. Martin, Mrs. J. C. Williams, Margaret Lawson, J. A. Bass, I. L. Tolbert.

Resolutions: J. C. Williams, Alline Bass, E. F. Sanford, W. B. Bass, Oattie Lee Wilkinson.

Report of Committee on divine service, Friday nite — J. C. Williams. Open services followed by G. W. Martin.

Saturday 11:00 R. R. Ziglar, Saturday nite open by E. F. Sanford followed by E. E. Brooks.

Sunday 11:00 W. A. Wilkinson

Flara Bass — chairman

Dismissed until Saturday morning.

Friday night: Song service by choir, preaching by J. C. Williams followed by G. W. Martin.

Saturday morning 9:30: Song by choir, Bible reading by Judith Wilkinson, 1 Peter, 4:1 - 11. Prayer by I. L. Tolbert. Body declared ready for business by moderator W. A. Wilkinson.

Invited visiting Brothers and Sisters from Dozier, Ala.

Recessed for Committees to work on reports.

Saturday 11:00: Services re-opened by songs by the choir, Prayer by E. F. Sanford, Preaching by R. R. Ziglar, read 2 Kings 7:9.

Dismissed by G. D. McVay for refreshments.

Saturday 1:00 P. M. Song by choir. Bible reading, St. John 1:1—12 by Audrey Bass. Prayer by E. E. Brooks. Body declared ready for business by moderator — W. A. Wilkinson.

Committees report as follows: Report of Temperance committee — we do approve report as it is in old minute.

G. W. Martin — chairman

Report Received.

Old minute report — we as church members, being professed followers of Christ do all that is legal and just to stamp out the curse of intoxicating drinks. we believe in carrying out the Bible standard of being temperate in all things.

E. E. Brooks, chairman

Report of Obituaries committee — we your committee on obituaries report as follows, we find two deaths in the association. Brother Mathew Garrett, age 86, and Brother Kenneth Raynor, died Oct. 10, at the age of 90. He became a minister at the age of 19, he worked with the Free Will Baptist until his death. He helped organize the Southern Union Association, we feel that our association has suffered a great loss, but our loss is heaven's gain. Let us live here that we shall meet them in the life to come.

J. Bennitt Bass, chairman

Report received, committee discharged.

Report of committee on finance — we your committee on finance report as follows:

Crestview Church	\$ 4.65
Rock Hole	10.00
Shady Hill	9.50
New Bethany	18.00
Shady Grove	8.55
Balance In Treasury	104.29
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Total in Treasury	\$154.99

G. D. McVay, chairman

Report read, committee discharged.

Report of Sabbath School committee: We your committee on Sabbath Schools report as follows: We find an active Sunday School in each of the five churches represented, we commend the Churches for this for we believe that Sunday School is the foundation for our churches.

Alline Bass, chairman

Report read — committee discharged.

Report of Treasurer:

I your treasurer report as follows,



In treasury	\$146.02
Paid for Minutes	36.73
Paid Clerk	-5.00
Total paid out	41.73
Balance in Treasury	104.29

Ottie Lee Wilkinson, Treasurer

Report read and treasurer discharged.

Report of committee on suggestions. We your committee on suggestions, report as follows:

1. We suggest that the Sunday School Rally be held at Shady Hill Church 2nd Sunday in June. The Council meeting be held at Rock Hole church 3rd Sunday in July and Saturday before. The association be held at New Bethany Church beginning Friday before 4th Sunday in Sept. 1952.
2. We suggest that Bro. E. F. Sanford preach the introductory sermon and in his absence Bro. R. R. Ziglar will preach.
3. We suggest that the clerk be paid \$5.00 out of the associational treasury.
4. We suggest that the minutes of the council meeting be brought directly before the association and voted on and minutes recorded in associational minutes.
5. We suggest that any preacher coming into our association from some other association or from some other denomination or from some other association bring a recommendation of good standing from some live church or else be tried one year before being liscensed to preach and go before the association before he is ordained.
6. We suggest that the associational clerk have 100 new letter forms printed and the treasurer pay for same.
7. We suggest that all deeds to all church property be held by associational treasurer.
8. We suggest that the clerk write a resolution of thanks to this community.

Genola B. Spence: chairman

Report received and committee discharged.

Report of committee on resolutions. We your committee on resolutions, wish to report as follows.

1. Be it resolved that no preacher be in order to unite in hole bonds of matrimony any person who has been divorced, whose husband or wife is still living.
2. Each church appoint four delegates each year to the council meeting and to the association.
3. Resolve that no church use as a deacon a man with more than one living wife and no minister be in fellowship in our association with more than one living wife.

J. C. Williams: chairman

Report received: committee discharged.

Minutes of council meeting read and adopted. Minutes of association read and adopted.

Song by choir while offering taken for orphans home at Eldridge, Ala.

Amount of offering \$12.00.

Song by choir.

Dismissed by G. W. Martin until Saturday night.

Saturday night: Preaching by E. F. Sanford closed by E. E. Brooks.

Sunday 11:00 A. M. — Song service by choir. Prayer by G. D. McVay.

Preaching by W. A. Wilkinson after reading Ephesians 2:8 — 10.

Resolution of thanks read as follows: We the ministers, Executive committee and delegates composing the 25th annual session of the Southern Union Association express our thanks and appreciation to the Shady Grove community for their kind hospitality shown us during this association, we pray God's richest blessings on each of them.

Betty Bass — association clerk

Ministers, delegates and executive committee extend 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 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 him-

self 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.

16. 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 13:17. 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 2:22.

## Church Covenant

In order to have 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 it 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 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 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 office for two years and until their successors are elected, unless removed for cause; they have charge of the deeds and all other 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 deacons.

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 youth 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 1951-52

Churches and Pastor	Clerks and Address	Time of Meeting	Present Members	Paid Pastor	Home Mission	Paid for Minutes
1st. Free will Baptist church of Crestview, G. D. McVay	Margaret Lawson 776 N. Barrow St. Crestview, Fla.	1st. Sun. & Sat. nite before _____	22	\$ 78.77	\$ 20.75	
New Shady Grove, W. A. Wilkinson	Anna McGlaun Rt. 3, Andalusia, Ala.	1st. Sun. & Sat. nite before _____	81	\$ 38.90	\$ 10.54	\$ 8.55
New Bethany, E. E. Brooks	Ottie Lee Wilkinson Rt. 1, Holt, Fla.	4th. Sunday and Sat. before _____	44	\$169.40	\$ 70.23	\$18.00
Shady Hill, R. R. Ziglar	Audrey Bass Rt. 5, Andalusia, Ala.	2nd. Sun. & Sat. nite before _____	44	\$ 59.33	\$ 53.15	\$ 9.50
Rock Hole, I. L. Tolbert	Nora Bundrick Rt. 5, Andalusia, Ala.	3rd. Sun. & Sat. nite before _____	25	\$109.00	\$ 22.55	\$10.00