

55

Minutes of

TWENTY-NINTH ANNUAL SESSION
OF THE

Southern Union Association United Free Will Baptist CHURCH OF CHRIST

HELD WITH
FIRST FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH
OF CRESTVIEW

North Barrow St. - Crestview, Fla.

SEPTEMBER 23, 24, 25, 1955

OFFICERS

Moderator H. M. Bass
Assistant Moderator W. A. Wilkinson
Clerk Genola B. Spence
Treasurer V. L. McGlaun
Reading Clerk Paulette Scott

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

W. B. Bass V. L. McGlaun J. Bennett Bass
Stacy B. Bass W. F. Sanford

Closed to meet with New Shady Grove Church
7½ miles Southeast of Andalusia, Ala. on Friday
before the 4th Sunday in Sept. 1956.

ORDER OF CONFERENCE

1. Invite visiting brethern 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. Misscellaneous business.
8. Motion to adjourn.

PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of the 29th Annual Session of the Southern Free Will Baptist Church held with the 1st Free Will Baptist Church, N. Barrow Street, Crestview, Fla. Sept. 23-25, 1955.

Friday - 11:00 A. M.

Song service by congregation. Prayer by Sister Irene Scott. Song: "Standing on the Promise" Introductory Sermon by Rev. W. M. Martin; Scripture Reading 1st Corinthians 15:22. Song: "Jesus Paid It All" by congregation: Rev. W. A. Wilkinson.

Dismissed 1 hour for refreshments.

Friday - 1:00 P. M.

Body called to order by the Moderator. Song service by choir. Scripture Reading 1st Psalms by Sis. Eula Dotson. Prayer by Bro. G. C. Wilkinson. Body declared ready for business by the Moderator.

Call for Church letters.

Letters read.

Delegates enrolled as follows:

Shady Hill: Sisters Florence Bass, Alline Bass, Flora Bass and Mattie Johnson.

New Bethany: Brothers G. C. Wilkinson and J. A. Bass, Sisters Naomi Wilkinson and Eula Dotson.

Dozier: Sisters Irene Scott, Paulette Scott and Maybelle Cobb.

Crestview: Bro. J. D. Bass and Sisters Margaret Lawson, Amy Bass and Genola Spence.

New Shady Grove: Brother W. A. Turman and Sisters Nancy Turman, Ineta McGlaun and Eula Lee McGlaun.

Rock Hole: Bro. J. R. Bass and Sister Mayme Bass.

Enrollment of Ministers Present:

Rev. W. A. Wilkinson, Rt. 3, Baker, Fla.

Rev. E. F. Sanford, Baker, Fla.

Enrollment of Ministers absent:

Rev. A. B. Lawson, Andalusia, Ala., Rev. F. M. Wright, Opp, Ala. Rev. J. C. Williams, Andalusia, Ala. Rev. R. R. Ziglar, Rt. 4, Andalusia, Ala.

Licensed Ministers absent:

Rev. Wade Wilkinson, Rt. 3, Baker, Fla.

Visiting Ministers:

Rev. G. W. Martin, Rt. 4, Box 73, Brewton, Ala. Rev. W. M. Martin, Box 545, De Funiak Springs, Fla., Rev. E. M. Crutchfield, Rt. 5, Brewton, Ala. Rev. N. W. Carden, Pollard, Ala. Rev. T. M. Scott, 362 E. Chestnut, Ave., Crestview, Fla.

Invited visiting ministers to seat with us.

Welcome handshake was given to Delegates, Ministers and Executive Committees.

Officers for next year were elected as follows:

Moderator Bro. H. M. Bass
Assistant Moderator Rev. W. A. Wilkinson
Clerk Sister Genola B. Spence
Treasurer Bro. V. L. McGlaun
Reading Clerk Sister Paulette Scott
Assciational Deacons Bro. M. M. Bass and E. H. McGlaun

A vote of confidence was extended the Moderator upon his reelection.

Committees were appointed as follows:

Finance: Bro. V. L. McGlaun, Bro. G. C. Wilkinson and Sister Mayme Bass. x

Temperance: Bro. J. R. Bass, Sister Amy Bass, Sister Maybelle Cobb and Sister Aline Bass.

Sabbath Schools: Bro. W. A. Turman, Bro. W. M. Martin, Sister Flora Bass and Bro. J. A. Bass.

Divine Service: Bro. J. Dallas Bass, Sister Irene Scott and Sister Eula Lee McGlaun.

Resolutions: Bro. J. Bennett Bass, Sister Naomi Wilkinson and Sister Mattie Johnson.

Suggestions: Bro. Stacey B. Bass, Sister Nancy Turman

Bro. W. B. Bass, Sister Florence Bass and Sister Oattie Lee Wilkinson.

Obituaries: Sister Eula Dotson, Sister Margaret Lawson and Sister Ineta McGlaun.

Moved, seconded and carried that body adjourn until Saturday morning.

Song: Benediction by Bro. V. L. McGlaun.

Friday Night Service

Song Service by choir. Prayer Service conducted by Bro. G. C. Wilkinson. Preaching by Rev. T. M. Scott, Bible reading St. John 6:47 followed by Rev. E. F. Sanford. Benediction by Bro. W. M. Martin.

Saturday Morning, Sept. 24, 1955

Song service by choir. Scripture reading, St. John 1 1-17 by Sister Linda Wilkinson. Prayer by Rev. V. L. McGlaun.

Body declared ready for business by Moderator.

Recess for committees to work on their reports.

Song service by choir. Prayer by Bro. G. C. Wilkinson. Preaching by Bro. E. M. Crutchfield from Revelation 3:3. followed by Bro. N. W. Carden. Benediction by rev. G. W. Martin.

Dismissed 1 hour for refreshments.

Saturday - 1:00 P. M.

Song Service by congregation. Scripture reading, 1st John 2 by Sister Irene Scott, Prayer by Bro. W. A. Turman.

Body declared ready for business by Moderator.

Report of Committee on suggestions:

We your Committee on suggestions report as follows:

We subbest the Association elect the Executive Committee every 2 years, beginning at the next Association. We suggest the Association meet with New Shady Grove Church 7½ miles southeast of Andalusia, Alabama on Friday morning before the 4th Sunday in September 1956. We suggest the Sunday School Rally be held at New Bethany Church 7½ miles West of Baker, Fla. on the seconday Sunday in June. We suggest the first 5th Sunday meeting be held at Dozier Church, to begin at 9:30 A. M. we suggest that there be one song sung between sermons. We suggest Bro. W. H. Wilkinson preach the introductory sermon at the 1956 Association. In his absence we suggest Bro. Wade Wilkinson take his place. We suggest the Assocational Clerk be paid \$5.00.

/s/ Stacy B. Bass, Chairman

Report received and committee dismissed.

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 drink. We believe in carrying out the Bible standard in being temperate in all things.

/s/ John Bass, Chairman

Report received and committee dismissed.

Committee on Resolutions:

We your Committee on Resolutions report as follows:

We resolve to let the resolutions stand as appear in the minutes at this time.

1. That no minister be held responsible for marrying anyone unknowingly who has previously been married, having a living wife or husband.
2. Each church appoint 4 delegates each year to the Association.
3. Resolve that no church use as a deacon a man with more than one living wife.

/s/ J. B. Bass, Chairman

Report received and committee dismissed.

Committee on Sabbath Schools:

We your Committee on Sabbath Schools report as follows, We find 5 active Sunday Schools in the Association and two prayer meetings. We urge each church to organize young peoples meetings and establish prayer meetings.

/s/ W. A. Turman, Chairman

Report received and committee dismissed.

Committee on Obituaries:

We your Committee on Obituaries report as follows:

We find 2 deaths in the Association: Sister Alma Hudson born 1894 died 1955. Sister Mollie Henderson, born 1862, died 1955. Both were members of New Shady Grove Church.

There's an open gate
Thru which each must go alone
At the end of the road
And there is a light we cannot see
Our Father claims His own
Beyond the gate our loved ones
Find happiness and rest
And there is a comfort
In the thought
That a loving God knows best.

/s/ Eula Dotson, Chairman

Report received and committee dismissed.

Treasurer's Report:

We your treasury committee report as follows:
Report of old treasurer:

Balance in treasury	119.13
Amount spent for minutes	52.29
Amount paid Clerk	5.00
Total amount spent	57.29
Balance in treasury	61.84

/s/ J. Bennett Bass, Treasurer

Report received and Treasurer dismissed.

Balance in treasury	61.84
Received from Rock Hole Church	2.00
Received from Dozier Church	10.00
Received from New Shady Grove Church	10.00
Received from New Bethany Church	20.00
Received from Shady Hill Church	15.00
Received from Crestview Church	5.50
Total in treasury	124.34

/s/ V. L. McGlaun, Chairman

Report received and committee dismissed.

Committee on Divine Service:

Rev. T. M. Scott and Rev. E. F. Sanford preach Friday night. Rev. E. M. Crutchfield and Rev. N. W. Carden preach Saturday at 11:00. Rev. W. A. Wilkinson, preach Saturday night. Rev. E. F. Sanford preach Sunday at 11:00 A. M.

Recognition of 2 charter members of the Association and the organization of Shady Hill Church, the oldest church in the Association, in 1896. Bro. E. N. McGlaun and Bro. W. B. Bass. Song: "Precious Memories" was sung followed by prayer.

A free will offering of \$16.00 was made to the Alabama Free Will Baptist Children Home at Eldridge, Alabama.

A free will offering of \$20.80 was given to assist the Free Will Baptist Church of De Funiak Springs, Fla. in their building fund.

Meeting adjourned until 9:45 A. M. Sunday Morning.

Saturday Night Service

Song and prayer service by congregation. Preaching by Bro. W. A. Wilkinson, 2nd John 5:1 and Luke 17:5. Song. Benediction by Bro. G. C. Wilkinson.

Sunday: Sept. 25

Song service by choir. Prayer. Sunday School.
Preaching by Bro. E. F. Sanford, Matthew 23:47.

Resolution of thanks:

We the Ministers, Executive Committees and Delegates composing the 29th Annual Session of the Southern Union Association wish to express our thanks and appreciation to the Crestview community for their kind hospitality shown us during this Association. We pray God's richest blessing on each of you.

Genola B. Spence, Associational Clerk.

The parting hand extended to Ministers, Executive Committees and Delegates.

ARTICLES OF FAITH

1. As to God—One God and Father of all. Eph. 4:6.
2. As to Scriptures—All Scripture is given by inspiration of God. 2nd Tim. 3:16.
3. As to Freedom of 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 Condition of Salvation—He (Christ) died for all. 2nd 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 8:27. "So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God." Rom. 14:12.
11. As to Oneness of the Christian Church—"Is Christ divided?" 1 Cor. 1:13. "I am the Vine, ye are the branches." John 15:5. "That they may be one as we are." 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." 1 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." 1 Cor. 15:52.
14. As to the Judgment, Reward and Punishment—"For we shall all 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 not 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.” 1 Peter 2:21.

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 Savior Jesus Christ.

AS TO THE RULES— 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, nor within six 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 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 hold 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 and 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 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 church once a year.

Section 2. The deacon shall be elected by the church and shall hold office 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 in conference.

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 minutes of the business transactions of the church, and shall read the same at the conference as often as the church may demand, and shall turn all books and papers over 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 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 spiritually baptised, by an ordained baptiser.

Section 7. Members must pay their 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 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 presbtery that ordained them if possible.

Section 11. It is required of each church to do everything possible to promote religious work by giving youth members an opportunity and encouraging them to speak in public in behalf of our Savior. 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 unreasonable 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.

Section 18. The Executive Committee is the governing body of the Association to act on things pertaining to the Association when the Association is not in session.

STATISTICAL TABLE FOR YEAR OF 1955 - 1956

Churches and Pastors	Clerks and Addresses	Total Members	Paid Pastor	Home Mission	Paid for Minutes	Time of Meeting
Shady Hill N. W. Carden	Alline Bass Rt. 5, Andalusia, Ala.	60	177.73	116.44	15.00	2nd Sun. & Sun. N.
New Bethany E. E. Brooks	Ottie Lee Wilkinson Rt. 1, Holt, Fla.	44	200.31	77.76	20.00	4th Sun. & Night before
Dozier E. M. Crutchfield	Irene Scott Dozier, Ala.	51	195.09	325.79	10.00	1-3 Suns. Night before
New Shady Grove Jim Johnson	Olivia Taylor Gen. Del., Andalusia, Ala.	85	116.20	101.35	10.00	1-3 Suns. Night before
Crestview E. F. Sanford	Margaret Lawson Crestview, Fla.	20	259.85	36.92	5.50	1-3 Suns. & Sun. N.
Rock Hole	Mayme Bass Rt. 5, Andalusia, Ala.				2.00	1 & 3rd Suns.