

MINUTES

of the
Forty-Seventh Annual Session
SOUTHERN UNION ASSOCIATION
UNITED FREE WILL BAPTIST
HELD WITH
SHADY HILL FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH
ANDALUSIA, ALABAMA

September 21 - 22, 1973



OFFICERS

MODERATOR Rev. W. A. Wilkinson
ASST. MODERATOR Rev. L. V. Pinson
CLERK Sister Marcia Dotson
TREASURER Brother Hollie McGlaun
READING CLERK Sister Patricia Rigby

ASSOCIATIONAL DEACONS
Brothers, Riley Bass and Edd Bass



Closed to meet with Dozier Free Will Baptist Church, Dozier, Alabama.
Firday before the fourth Sunday in September 1974. 10:30 A.M.

ORDER OF CONFERENCE

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

ORDAINING COUNCIL AND DATE OFFICE EXPIRES

- 1974 Rev. J. C. Matthews, Route 2, Andalusia, Ala. Phone 222-4455
1975 Rev. Sam Stroud, 106 Arnold St. Andalusia, Ala. Phone 222-5078
1976 Rev. L. V. Pinson, 3015 Boulder Ave., Pensacola, Fla. Phone 456-3972
1977 Rev. W. A. Wilkinson, Route 2 Baker, Fla. Phone 537-3192
1978 Brother Edd Bass, Route 5 Andalusia, Ala. Phone 222-4597

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- Bro. Hollie McGlaun, Route 1, Andalusia, Ala. Phone 222-4492
Bro. Edd Bass, Route 5, Andalusia, Ala. Phone 222-4597
Bro. V. L. McGlaun, Route 1, Andalusia, Ala.
Bro. Bill Walker, Pensacola, Fla.
Bro. Glen C. Wilkinson, Route 1, Holt, Fla.

MINISTERS PRESENT

- Rev. J. Matthews
Rev. L. V. Pinson
Rev. W. A. Wilkinson
Rev. Doyle Shephard

MINISTERS ABSENT

- Rev. Sam Stroud

VISITORS

Sister Flora Jackson, East Alabama Association
Sister Eula Lee McGlaun, West Highland Assembly of God Church

PROCEEDINGS

September 21, 1973, Delegates, Ministers, Deacons, and Executive Committee met at Shady Hill Church, Andalusia, Ala. at 10:30 A.M. with Sister Betty Shephard at the piano and Rev. Doyle Shephard leading the congregation sang a number of songs, followed by prayer led by Rev. L. V. Pinson. More congregational singing before Rev. J. C. Matthews took the stand to preach the Introductory Sermon, using as his text Romans 8. Dismissed one hour for lunch by Brother Edd Bass. Lunch was enjoyed by all under the beautiful oaks. Thanks was given at the table by Rev. Doyle Shephard.

FRIDAY 1:00 P.M.

Congregation was called to order by moderator with congregational singing with Sister Betty Shephard at the piano and Rev. Doyle Shephard leading. Scripture Reading by Sister Gail Woodard, Psalms 1, prayer by Sister Flora Bass.

Moderator declared body ready for business. Letters from the churches were read by Sister Patricia Rigby.

The Delegates, Ministers and Deacons formed a circle to take the welcoming handshake.

1973 - 1974 OFFICERS ELECTED AS FOLLOWS:

MODERATOR	Rev. W. A. Wilkinson
ASST. MODERATOR	Rev. L. V. Pinson
CLERK	Sister Marcia Dotson
TREASURER	Brother Hollie McGlaun
READING CLERK	Sister Patricia Rigby

ASSOCIATIONAL DEACONS

Brothers, Riley Bass and Edd Bass

DELEGATES AND DEACONS

DOZIER CHURCH—Sisters Irene Scott, Lena Robbins and Madonna Kimbro. Deacons, Brothers Sam Harris and Gerald Kimbro.

NEW SHADY GROVE CHURCH—Sisters Francis Stroud, Inita McGlaun, Bulah Stroud, Mary Etta Worley and Era Jones. Deacons, Brothers, V. L. McGlaun and Carl Stroud.

FIRST FWB CHURCH PENSACOLA—Sisters Patricia Rigby, Lucille Davis, Rebecca Rigby and Brother Willard Davis. Deacons, Brothers, John Pinson, Gordan Walker and R. L. Williams.

NEW BETHANY CHURCH—Sisters Naomi Wilkinson, Gail Woodard, Ottie Lee Wilkinson and Brother J. A. Bass.

SHADY HILL CHURCH—Sisters Flora Bass, Rosa Selvage, Learvene Bass, and Brother Riley Bass, Deacons, Brothers, Stacy Bass, Hollie McGlaun, Edd Bass, Ralph Bass and John R. Bass.

A report was given by the Chairman of the Ordaining Council, Brother Edd Bass, on the questioning and acceptance of Rev. Doyle Shephard to the Southern Union Association. A welcoming Handshake was given to Rev. Shephard and wife, Betty.

DIVINE SERVICE REPORT

Rev. L. V. Pinson preach at 11:00 A.M. Saturday. Adjourned until 10:00 A.M. Saturday. Dismissed by Rev. J. C. Matthews.

SATURDAY 10:00 A.M.

Body was called to order by Moderator. Congregation singing with Sister Becky Rigby at the piano and Rev. L. V. Pinson leading. Prayer by Brother Edd Bass. Scripture reading by Brother Daryl Holly from Psalms 46. Moderator declared body ready for business. A report was given by Rev. L. V. Pinson on the new letter forms that was suggested by the State Association and it was decided that the decision would go to the suggestion committee.

A report was also given by Rev. L. V. Pinson on stands that were taken by the National Association of Free Will Baptist against Vices that are becoming very prevalent in our Society today.

Body was recessed for committees to work on reports.

SATURDAY 11:00 A.M.

Congregational singing with Sister Becky Rigby at the piano and Sister Gail Woodard leading.

At this time Rev. L. V. Pinson took the stand and preached an inspiring sermon on "A Multitude of People" taking his text from Acts 4:31-34, prayer by Rev. W. A. Wilkinson. Song, "Majestic Sweetness Sits Enthroned". Special Prayer for Sister Alline Bass led by Sister L. V. Pinson.

Dismissed one hour for lunch. Tables full of good food were enjoyed by all. Thanks was offered at the table by Rev. J. C. Matthews.

SATURDAY 1:00 P.M.

Moderator called congregation to order. Singing led by Brother Edd Bass with Brother Daryl Holly at the piano. Prayer by Brother Willard Davis. Bible reading by Sister Patricia Rigby. Psalms 128.

OBITUARIES REPORT

We report two deaths in the Association in the past year. New Bethany Church - oneBro. H. M. Bass
March 4, 1973

First Free Will Baptist Church of Dozier - one Homer Watley

Committee Discharged, Bro. Edd Bass Chairman.

SUNDAY SCHOOL REPORT

We find an active Sunday School in each church in the Association. We suggest each church seek new members and contact absent members, suggest that teachers and officers continue to meet once each quarter to plan and pray for a better Sunday School. Suggest each church have a visitation program for the sick and shut-ins and hospitals. Suggest each church have weekly prayer service. Encourage youth activity. Suggest children invite their fellow classmates at school to Sunday School. Stress Women's Auxiliary and also organize Training Union in Churches that don't have them. Have Bible School each summer. This is very important.

Committee discharged, Sister Learvene Bass, Chairman.

AUXILIARY REPORT

We find two active Auxiliaries in the Association. Total Membership - 20. Some of the projects of these Auxiliaries are: payments on piano, Foreign and Home Missions, Donations of Food and Flowers. helping pay for Air Conditioning. Also held Vacation Bible School. We suggest each church have an active Auxiliary.

Committee Discharged, Sister Patricia Rigby, Chairman.

RESOLUTION REPORT

We suggest that each member resolve in their hearts to seek divine guidance of the Holy Spirit in things that pertain to Holy and Religious living, by prayer and Bible Study.

Committee discharged, Sister Oattie Lee Wilkinson, Chairman.

FINANCE REPORT

Left in treasure	\$12.39
Shady Grove Church	\$15.00
First FWB Church Pensacola	\$15.00
New Bethany Church	\$32.95
Dozier Church	\$10.00
Shady Hill Church	48.70
	TOTAL 134.04

Committee discharged, Brother Hollie McGlaun, Chairman.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance beginning 9-23-72	\$131.62
Paid for minutes	\$99.23
Paid Clerk	\$20.00
Balance on 9-22-73	\$12.39

Committee discharged, Brother Hollie McGlaun Chairman.

TEMPERANCE REPORT

The Bible teaches we should be temperate in all things. We suggest that each Christian abstain from that which is harmful or detrimental to the cause of Christ in their lives. Let the inner man keep the outer man in subjection at all times not yielding to the desires of the flesh. But rather exercise self control. Romans 6:12-14. The Bible teaches that we should remember the Sabbath day and keep it Holy.

Committee discharged, Brother V. L. McGlaun, Chairman.

SUGGESTION COMMITTEE

1. Suggest Rev. Doyle Shephard to preach Introductory sermon at next association, in his absence Brother Sam Stroud.
2. The next Association go to Dozier.
3. Pay Associational Clerk \$20.00
4. Fifth Sunday Meetings as follows:
 - New Bethany FWB Church. Dec. 30, 1973
 - New Shady Grove FWB Church. . . . Mar. 31, 1974
 - Dozier FWB Church. June 30, 1974
5. Sunday School Rally go to Shady Hill Church, July 14, 1974.
6. Clerk write resolution of Thanks.
7. Next Association meet at 10:30 A.M. Friday before the 4th Sunday in September, 1974.
8. Letter forms were voted on and passed and will be used by all the churches next year.
9. Suggest that quarterly meetings continue and go as follows:
 - Shady Hill FWB Church Jan. 5, 1974, 1:30 P.M.
 - First FWB Church, Pensacola . April 6, 1974, 1:30 P.M.
 - New Bethany FWB Church . July 6, 1974, 1:30 P.M.
10. The campsite project was discussed and voted on by body and we will resume work on the project with the first working on Septmeber 29, 1973.

Committee discharged, Rev. J. C. Matthews, Chairman.

A report was given by Sister Flora Bass on her visit to the Children's Home, also, by Rev. W. A. Wilkinson, a Board Member, they urged everyone to give generously in a collection that was taken at this time for the Children's Home. Collected was \$33.60.

A discussion was held on the condition of the Crestview Church. A committee of three, consisting of Rev. L. V. Pinson, Rev. J. C. Matthews and Brother Hollie McGlaun was appointed by the moderator to investigate the cause of non-activity and a report be made at the first quarterly meeting.

It was at this time decided by all to again have a missionary program as the one the past year was greatly enjoyed by all with Brother Sherwood Lee from Ivory Coast, Africa.

Delegates were selected for the State Association. Sister Naomi Wilkinson, Sister Flora Bass and Brother Willard Davis.

Skeleton Minutes were read and adopted by body.

RESOLUTION OF THANKS

We the Ministers, Executive Committee, Deacons and Delegates composing the forty-seventh Annual Session of the Southern Union Association wish to express our sincere thanks and appreciation to the Shady Hill Church for their hospitality shown us during this Association. We pray God's Richest Blessings on each of you.

Marcia Dotson, Clerk
Route 1 Box 215-A
Baker, Florida 32531
Telephone 537-4523

Delegation retired to yard to take the parting handshake.
Dismissed by Brother Darby Holly.

ARTICLES OF FAITH

1. As to God - One God and Father of all. Eph. 4:6.
2. As to Scripture - All Scripture is given by inspiration of God. II 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. 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 8:37. "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?" I 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." 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 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. 23:46.
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." I 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 the 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 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 past regular conference, in the association 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. That the Church recommend the questioning of any member for license, the same as for ordination.

Section 10. A presbytery of 5 ordained men shall be appointed by the moderator to hold office 1 through 5th year to conduct ordination of ministers or deacons for this association or any church connected with this association.

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. As the Scriptures teach against worldliness in any form, Be it Resolved that each member seek the divine guidance of the Holy Spirit in things that pertain to Holy and Righteous living.

ARTICLE 2

Section 1. The pastor shall attend his church 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 discretion 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 shall 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 baptized by immersion by an ordained baptizer.

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.

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 youth members an opportunity and encouraging them to speak in public in behalf of our Savior.

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 rise 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.

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.

PERMANENT REGULATIONS.

1. No preacher or deacon shall be in good standing in our Association having two living wives. I Timothy 3:2.
2. No minister be held responsible for marrying anyone unknowingly who has previously been married having a living husband or wife.
3. That each Church appoint 4 delegates to the Association each year.
4. That all deacons from the different churches be standing delegates to the association.
5. No Minister be called as pastor or used as evangelist in any church in this association without being subject to questioning by ordaining council.
6. No minister be used as an evangelist in any church in this association except ones of F.W.B. faith.

STATISTICS TABLE FOR YEAR 1972 - 1973

CHURCH AND PASTOR	CLERKS	Total Members	Paid Pastor	Asso. Purposes	Time of meeting
First Free Will Baptist Church, Pensacola Rev. L. V. Pinson	Sister Ann Walker Route 3 Box 22 Pensacola, Fla. 32503	68	\$2,969.83	\$15.00	Every Sunday and Sunday night Wed. night
New Shady Grove Church Rev. Doyle Shephard	Sister Mary Etta Worley Route 1 Box 259-A Andalusia, Ala. 36420	32	\$ 194.90	\$15.00	Every Sunday Sunday Night
First Free Will Baptist Church, Dozier Rev. Sam Stroud	Sister Madonna Kimbro Box 86 Dozier, Ala. 36028	36	\$ 983.00	\$10.00	Every Sunday and Sunday night Wed. Night
New Bethany Church Rev. W. A. Wilkinson	Sister Ottie Lee Wilkinson Route 1 Holt, Florida	20	\$ 341.00	\$32.95	4th Sunday
Shady Hill Church Rev. J. C. Matthews	Sister Flora Bass Route 5 Andalusia, Ala. 36420	47	\$ 743.60	\$48.70	Every Sunday and Sunday night Wed. night

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