

MINUTES

of the

Forty - Ninth Annual Session

SOUTHERN UNION ASSOCIATION

UNITED FREE WILL BAPTIST

HELD WITH

SHADY GROVE FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH

ANDALUSIA, ALABAMA

SEPTEMBER 26 - 27th, 1975



OFFICERS

MODERATOR	REV. W. A. WILKINSON
ASST. MODERATOR	REV. J. C. MATTHEWS
CLERK	SISTER ANN WALKER
TREASURER	BROTHER EDD BASS
READING CLERK	SISTER FLORA BASS

ASSOCIATIONAL DEACON

BROTHER V. L. McGLAUN



Closed to meet with the First Free Will Baptist Church, Pensacola, Florida,
Friday before the fourth Sunday in September, 1976, 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

1976	Rev. L. V. Pinson, 3015 Boulder Ave., Pensacola, Florida Phone 456-3972
1977	Rev. W. A. Wilkinson, Route 2, Baker, Florida Phone 537-3192
1978	Brother Edd Bass, Route 5, Andalusia, Alabama Phone 222-4591
1979	Rev. J. C. Matthews, 1722 Bruman Street, Andalusia, Alabama Phone 222-4455
1980	Brother John W. Pinson, 6621 Owens, Pensacola, Florida Phone 476-4933

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Brother Tom Scott, Dozier, Alabama
Brother Edd Bass, Route 5, Andalusia, Alabama, Phone 222-4597
Brother V. L. McGlaun, Route 1, Andalusia, Alabama, Phone 222-1317
Brother Bill Walker, 131 Craft St., Pensacola, Florida, Phone 476-3372
Brother Glen C. Wilkinson, Route 1, Holt, Florida, Phone 537-6752

MINISTERS PRESENT

Rev. J. C. Matthews, 1722 Burman St., Andalusia, AL. Phone 222-4455
Rev. L. V. Pinson, 3015 Boulder Ave., Pensacola, FL., Phone 456-3972
Rev. W. A. Wilkinson, Route 2, BaKer, FL., Phone 537-3192
Rev. H. L. Scott, Route 2, Dozier, AL.
Rev. Webster Sasser, Route 3, Andalusia, AL. Phone 496-3611

VISITORS

Rev. W. A. Hansley
Rev. & Mrs. W. G. Palmer
Miss Mamie Low Palmer

PROCEEDINGS

September 26, 1975, Delegates, Ministers, Deacons, and Executive Committee met at New Shady Grove Church of Andalusia, Alabama, at 11:00 A.M. with Sister Coorer at the piano, and Brother Edd Bass leading the congregation in a number of songs. Prayer by Reverend W. A. Wilkinson. Reverend L. V. Pinson preached the Introductory Sermon. The message was on "Anchors that Hold". Dismissed one hour for lunch by Brother Webster Sasser. Thanks was given by Reverend J. C. Matthews at the table. Lunch was enjoyed by all on the outside.

FRIDAY 1:00 P.M.

Body was called to order by Moderator with the Congregation singing. Sister Coorer at the piano, with Edd Bass leading. Devotional by Sister Learvene Bass, John 1: 1-12. Prayer by Sister Florence Bass. Letters from the churches were read by Sister Flora Bass. Letters were read adopted from all churches. Delegates, Ministers, and Deacons formed a circle to take the welcoming handshake.

1975 - 1976 OFFICERS ELECTED AS FOLLOWS:

MODERATOR	REV. W. A. WILKERSON
ASST. MODERATOR	REV. J. C. MATTHEWS
CLERK	SISTER ANN WALKER
TREASURER	BROTHER EDD BASS
READING CLERK	SISTER FLORA BASS

ASSOCIATIONAL DEACON

Brother V. L. McGlaun

DELEGATES AND DEACONS

FIRST FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH — Betty Harris, Frank Harris,
Daisy Williams and Ann Walker

SHADY HILL CHURCH — Flora Bass, Learvene Bass, Rosa Selvage,
Ann McGlaun Deacons. Edd Bass and Hollie McGlaun.

DOZIER CHURCH — Sister Lena Robbins, Sister Irene Scott, and Brother
Tom Scott.

NEW SHADY GROVE — Mary Etta Worley, Bula Stroud, Era Jones,
Ineta McGlaun. Deacons U. L. McGlaun and Carl Stroud.

NEW BETHANY CHURCH — J. A. Bass, Marcia Dotson, Oattie Lee
Williams, and Gail Woodard.

DIVINE SERVICE REPORT

Brother Webster Sasser to preach at 11:00 A.M. Saturday. Adjourned until 10:00 A.M. Saturday. Dismissed by Brother V. L. McGlaun.

SATURDAY 10:25 A.M.

September 27, 1975, Delegates, Ministers, Deacons, and Executive Committee met at New Shady Grove Church at Andalusia, Alabama at 10:25 A.M. with Darrell Holley at the piano and Brother Edd Bass leading congregation songs. Bible reading was given by Brother John Pinson reading Psalm 98. Prayer by Brother Bill Walker. Brother Wilkerson declared the church in order. Brother Wilkerson gave a 45 minute recess for the 9 committees to work on their reports.

SATURDAY 11:00 A.M.

Brother Edd Bass lead the congregation in some songs. Brother John Pinson sang a special with Linda Pinson at the piano. Prayer by Brother W. G. Palmer from Liberty No. 1 Association at this time Rev. Webster Sasser took the stand and preached an inspiring sermon on 1 Peter 5 - 6, 7, 8. John Pinson dismissed in prayer. Dismissed one hour for lunch. Table was full of good food. Thanks was offered at the table by Rev. L. V. Pinson.

SATURDAY 1:00 P.M.

Started with Brother Edd Bass leading the congregation in some songs with Darrell Holley at the piano. Brother W. G. Palmer took the floor and invited everyone to come to the State Association, November 5, 6, and 7 at Appleton Free Will Baptist Church out from Brewton, AL. Devotional was given by Brother W. G. Palmer, Matthew 7: 13-23. Prayer by Brother W. G. Palmer.

Moderator called congregation to order, and declared the body ready for business. The ordaining council recommended that Brother Webster Sasser be accepted as an ordained minister in our association and that Frank Harris be ordained as a deacon in the First Free Will Baptist Church at Pensacola, Florida.

Rev. L. V. Pinson gave an oral report from the campsite committee. It showed the plans that had been drawn up. He thanked the churches for there interest in this project. He asked for everyone that could meet at the campsite for a working Saturday, October 4th.

Brother Wilkeerson gave a Finance Report from the campsite committee. We have \$1,708.98.

Suggestion Committee was read and accepted as read.

SUGGESTION COMMITTEE

1. We suggest the association meet with First Free Will Baptist Church of Pensacola, Florida on September 24th and 25th, 1976.
2. We suggest Brother Webster Sasser preach the introductory sermon.
3. We suggest discontinue the fifth sunday meeting.
4. Suggest association continue the quarterly meetings.
5. Suggest quarterly meetings be held as follows
 - a. Dozier Church January 3, 1976
 - b. Shady Grove. April 3, 1976
 - c. Shady Hill July 3, 1976
6. Suggest quarterly meetings be held all day instead of only afternoon, beginning 10:00 A.M.
7. Suggest the host church prepare a program for each quarterly meeting.
8. Suggest association have Sunday School Rally Picnic at campsite on Saturday June 11, 1976.
9. Suggest pay associational clerk \$25.00.
10. Suggest call for volunteers for state association.
11. Suggest clerk write resolution of thanks.

OBITUARIES REPORT

We report one death this year in the Association:

SHADY HILL CHURCH

None

DOZIER CHURCH

None

FIRST FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH

Pensacola, Florida - John Pinson - March 11, 1975

NEW SHADY GROVE CHURCH

None

NEW BETHANY CHURCH

None

Committee discharged, Sister Learvene 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 of each church meet 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 hospital. We encourage youth activity in all churches.

Committee discharged, Sister Anna McGlaun, Chairman.

AUXILIARY REPORT

We find two auxiliaries in the association, in all we have 19 members. Some of the projects of the auxiliary is, Foreign Mission, flowers for the sick, bible school, Christmas and Easter emphasis, spiritual needs of women and families.

RESOLUTION REPORT

We suggest as the Scripture teaches against Worldiness 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.

Committee discharged, Rev. J. A. Bass, Chairman.

FINANCE REPORT

Left in Treasury	\$44.34
New Shady Grove	\$20.00
New Bethany	\$50.00
First Free Will Baptist	\$30.00
Dozier	\$20.00
Shady Hill	\$69.07
	TOTAL \$233.41

Committee discharged, Brother Edd Bass, Chairman.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance beginning September 22, 1974	\$189.34
Paid for minutes	\$120.00
Paid Clerk	\$25.00
Balance on hand September 27, 1975	\$44.34

Committee discharged, Brother Edd Bass, Chairman.

TEMPERANCE REPORT

Report on Temperance:

We your Committee on Temperance submit the following as Christians and followers of our Lord Jesus Christ, we should do all in our power to stamp out the curse of intoxicating drinks. We find more money is spent on intoxicating drinks and wordly pleasures than is used for promoting the cause of Christ, and we adhere to the principals of the Bible, we believe that we should be temperate in all things.

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

DELEGATES TO STATE ASSOCIATION

Linda Pinson from First Free Will Baptist
Sister Matthews from Shady Hill
Sister Wilkerson from New Bethany Church
Brother Tom Scott from Dozier
Mary Etta Worley from New Shady Grove

Brother Scott made a motion that each church take care of their \$5.00 for State Association Fee, second by Brother Pinson, so carried.

Brother Wilkerson gave an oral report on children's home. He urged each church to give to the children's home. He asked for a collection to be taken for the home. Collection was \$28.48. Brother Pinson took charge of the Ordaining Council to ordain Brother Frank Harris as Deacon of the First Free Will Baptist Church in Pensacola, Florida. Brother Pinson asked Brother Grady Palmer to come as they layed their hands on Brother Frank Harris and pray with him. Brother Wilkerson appointed Brother John Pinson to serve on the Ordaining Council.

APPRECIATION FOR HOSPITALITY

I, on the behalf of everyone present wish to express our deepest appreciation and sincere thanks to Shady Grove Free Will Baptist Church for the wonderful welcome they gave everyone.

Our appreciation to each of you and may God richly bless you.

Ann Walker
131 Craft Street
Pensacola, Florida
Phone 476-3372

Skeleton minutes were read and adopted by the body. Delegates retired to yard to take the parting handshake.

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.

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 Saviour

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.

CHURCH COVENANT

Having given ourselves to God, by faith in Jesus Christ, and adopted the Word of God as our rule of faith and practice, we now give ourselves to one another by the will of God in this solemn covenant.

We promise by His grace to love and obey Him in all things, to avoid all appearance of evil, to abstain from all sinful amusements and unholy conformity to the world, from all sanction of the use and sale of intoxicating beverages, and to provide things honest in the sight of all men.

We agree faithfully to discharge our obligations in reference to study of the Scriptures, secret prayer, family devotions, and social worship, and by self-denial, faith, and good works endeavor to grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

We will not forsake the assembling of ourselves together for church conferences, public worship, and the observance of the ordinances of the gospel, nor fail to pay according to our ability for the support of the church, of its poor, and all its benevolent work.

We agree to accept Christian admonition and reproof with meekness, and to watch over one another in love, endeavoring to "keep the unity of the Spirit" in the bonds of peace to be careful of one another's happiness and reputation, seek to strengthen the weak, encourage the afflicted, admonish the erring, and as far as we are able, promote the success of the church and of the Gospel.

We will everywhere hold Christian principle sacred and Christian obligations and enterprises supreme; counting it our chief business in life to extend the influence of Christ in society; constantly praying and toiling that the Kingdom of God may come, and His will be done on earth as it is in Heaven.

To this end we agree to labor for the promotion of educational and denominational enterprises, the support of missions, the success of Sunday Schools, and evangelistic efforts for the salvation of the world.

And may the God of peace sanctify us wholly, and preserve us blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

STATISTICS TABLE FOR YEAR 1975 - 1976

CHURCH AND PASTOR	CLERKS	Total Members	Paid Pastor	Assoc. Purposes	Time of meeting
First Free Will Baptist Church, Pensacola Rev. L. V. Pinson	Sister Ann Walker 131 Craft Street Pensacola, FL. 32503	72	\$4,437.01	\$30.00	Every Sunday and Sunday night Wednesday night
New Shady Grove Church Rev. A. L. Scott	Sister Mary Etta Worley Route 1 Box 259-A Andalusia, AL. 36420	23	\$1,070.00	\$20.00	Every Sunday Sunday night
First Free Will Baptist Church, Dozier Rev. Webster Sasser	Sister Madonna Kimbro Box 86 Dozier, AL. 36028	59	\$1,435.00	\$20.00	Every Sunday and Sunday night Wednesday night
New Bethany Church Rev. W. A. Wilkerson	Sister Ottie Lee Wilkinson Route 1 Holt, FL.	20	\$ 444.00	\$50.00	4th Sunday
Shady Hill Church Rev. J. C. Matthews	Mrs. Edd Bass Rt. 5 Box 269 C Andalusia, AL. 36420	44	\$ 776.25	\$69.07	Every Sunday and Sunday night Wednesday night

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