

MINUTES

OF THE

FIFTY-FIRST ANNUAL SESSION
SOUTHERN UNION ASSOCIATION
OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS

HELD WITH
NEW BETHANY FREE WILL
BAPTIST CHURCH
BAKER, FLORIDA

September 23-24, 1977

OFFICERS

Moderator	Rev. W.A. Wilkinson
Asst. Moderator	Bro. Edd Bass
Clerk	Sis. Marcia Dotson
Treasurer	Bro. John Pinson
Reading Clerk	Sis. Flara Bass

Associational Deacon
Bro. Glen Wilkinson

Closed to meet at Shady Hill Free Will Baptist Church
Andalusia, Ala., Sept. 22, 1978, 10:3; A.M.

ORDER OF CONFERENCE

1. Invite visiting Brethern 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

- 1978 Bro. Edd Pass, Rt. 5, Andalusia, Ala.
Phone 222-4597
- 1979 Rev. J.C. Matthews, 1722 Bruman St., Andalusia, Ala.
Phone 222-4455
- 1980 Bro. John Pinson, 6621 Owens, Pensacola, Fla.
Phone 476-4933
- 1981 Rev. L.V. Pinson, 3015 Bolder Ave., Pensacola, Fla.
Phone 456-3972
- 1982 Rev. W.A. Wilkinson, Rt. 2, Baker, Fla.
Phone 537-3192

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- Bro. Gerald Kimbro, Dozier, Ala.
- Bro. Edd Bass, Rt. 5, Andalusia, Ala. Phone 222-4597
- Bro. V.L. McGlaun, Rt. 1, Andalusia, Ala. Phone 222-1317
- Bro. Bill Walker, 131 Craft St., Pensacola, Fla. Phone 476-3372
- Bro. Glen Wilkinson, Rt. 1, Holt, Fla. Phone 537-6752

MINISTERS PRESENT

- Rev. J.C. Matthews, 1722 Burman St., Andalusia, Ala.
Phone 222-4455
- Rev. L.V. Pinson, 3015 Bolder Ave., Pensacola, Fla.
Phone 456-3972
- Rev. Webster Sasser, Rt. 3, Andalusia, Ala.
Phone 493-7889
- Rev. W.A. Wilkinson, Rt. 2, Baker, Fla.
Phone 537-3192

VISITORS

Rev. Eugene Sanford, Semlar Springs, Liberty No. 1 Assoc.
Mrs. Ethel Cooper, Carolina Baptist Church, Andalusia, Ala.
Rev. Hamp Nelson, Canaan Missionary Baptist Church,
Crestview, Fla.
Mrs. Joyce Steele, Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church, Baker, Fla.
Mrs. Flora Jackson, First Free Will Baptist Church, Opelika, Ala.

PROCEEDINGS

September 23, 1977, Delegates, Ministers, Deacons and Executive Committee met at New Bethany Free Will Baptist Church at 10:30 a.m. with Sis. Linda Pinson at the piano and Bro. John Pinson leading the congregation in "Victory in Jesus". A devotional was read by Mrs. Learvene Bass, reading from John 1:1-14 followed with prayer by Rev. J.C. Matthews. The visitors were welcomed by Moderator and registered.

The Introductory Sermon was preached by Rev. W.A. Wilkinson, with text taken from Acts 4:1-12 with prayer by Rev. Webster Sasser. Dismissed for the Lunch Hour by Rev. Eugene Sanford. Lunch was enjoyed by all outside under the pines.

FRIDAY 1:00 P.M.

Bro. John Pinson started the service by leading the congregation in a number of songs. Bro. John Pinson sang a solo accompanied by his wife, Mrs. Linda Pinson at the piano. The Moderator called the body to order. The church letters were read by the reading clerk, Sis. Flara Bass. All letters were adopted. Officers for the coming year were elected as follows:

Moderator	Rev. W.A. Wilkinson
Asst. Moderator	Bro. Edd Bass
Clerk	Sis. Marcia Dotson
Treasurer	Bro. John Pinson
Reading Clerk	Sis. Flara Bass

The Moderator appointed Bro. Glen Wilkinson as Associational Deacon.

The welcoming handshake was taken by Delegates, Deacons, and Ministers.

The body was dismissed for 15 minutes while committees were appointed. Body was reconvened with singing "I'll Fly Away". Committees were appointed as follows:

Suggestion Committee -Brothers, Glen Wilkinson, Holly McGlaun, Gerald Kimbro, Rev. L.V. Pinson, and Sister Ineta McGlaun.

Temperance Committee -Rev. Webster Sasser, Sisters Gloria Amos and Era Jones.

Finance Committee -Brother John Pinson, Sisters, Rosa Selvage and Belinda Wilkinson.

Resolution Committee - Rev. J.C. Matthews, Sisters, Naomi Wilkinson and Learvene Bass.

Auxiliary Report - Sisters, Linda Pinson, Bonnie Mae Matthews and Flara Bass.

Obituaries Report - Bro. Ralph Bass, Sister Anna McGlaun and Mrs. Clark.

Sunday School Report - Rev. L.V. Pinson, Rev. Webster Sasser and Rev. J.C. Matthews.

Divine Service Report - Brothers Edd Bass, John Pinson, Gerald Kimbro, Sisters, Belinda Wilkinson and Ineta McGlaun.

A discussion was held on the property of the Crestview Church and it was decided that the Executive Committee would handle the sale of this.

DIVINE SERVICE REPORT

Rev. Webster Sasser preached at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday. Dismissed until 10:00 a.m. Saturday by Bro. Edd Bass.

SATURDAY 10:00 A.M.

Body was called to order by the Moderator, Rev. W.A. Wilkinson with Sis. Linda Pinson at the piano, Bro. John Pinson led the congregation in singing "I'll Meet You in the Morning". Rev. L.V. Pinson gave a devotional on II Cor. 4:1-18 concerning "Eternal Things". Prayer by Bro. Bill Walker. A recess was called for Committees to work on Reports. The Body was reconvened and sang "Rescue the Perishing".

RESOLUTION REPORT

We suggest as the Scripture teaches against worldliness in any form, be it resolved that each member seek Divine Guidance of the Holy Spirit in things that pertain to Holy and righteous living. Committee discharged, Rev. J.C. Matthews, Chairman.

FINANCE REPORT

Left in Treasury	\$131.73
New Shady Grove	25.00
New Bethany	55.00
Dozier Church	25.00
First Church Pensacola	40.00
Shady Hill	78.25
Total	\$354.98

SUNDAY SCHOOL REPORT

We, your Sunday School committee find that all Churches in the Association have active Sunday Schools except one. We ask your prayer for this church that they will soon have same. We would like to encourage each church to stress the great need of a much stronger teaching program among our people. Committee discharged, Rev. L.V. Pinson, Chairman. (A late report from members of the non reporting church say they do have a Sunday School.)

OBITUARIES REPORT

We are happy to report no deaths in the Association this year. Committee discharged, Bro. Ralph Bass, Chairman.

AUXILIARY REPORT

We find two Auxillaries in the Association with a total membership of twenty-four. The average attendance for each Auxiliary is eight. The primary purpose of Women's Auxiliary is Missions. We also send flowers, hold Bible School, have Christmas and Easter emphasis and do personal services when needed. We encourage all churches, if at all possible to form an Auxilliary. Sis. Linda Pinson, Chairman.

TEMPERANCE REPORT

We the Temperance Committee suggest all Christian people 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, to provide things honest in the sight of all men and pray for each other daily. Committee discharged, Rev. Webster Sasser, Chairman.

Song Service was enjoyed by all, led by Bro. John Pinson with Sis. Linda Pinson at the piano. Prayer by Rev. Hamp Nelson. At this time Rev. Webster Sasser took the stand and preached on "A New Heaven and a New Earth", taking his text from Rev. 21:1. Dismissed one hour for lunch by Bro. V.L. McGlaun. Thanks for the food was given by Rev. J.C. Matthews.

SATURDAY 1:00 P.M.

Singing by the Congregation.

SUGGESTION COMMITTEE

- 1. We suggest Association meet with Shady Hill Church September 22 and 23, 1978.
- 2. We suggest Rev. L.V. Pinson preach the Introductory Sermon, in his absence Rev. J.C. Matthews.
- 3. We suggest the Quarterly meetings be held as follows:
New Bethany ChurchJan. 7, 1978
New Shady GroveApril 1, 1978
Pensacola ChurchJuly 1, 1978
Meet at 10:00 at the above churches, with host church furnishing program.
- 4. We suggest that Minutes be kept at Quarterly meetings and be recorded in the Annual Minutes.
- 5. Sunday School Rally at Campsite on June 10, 1978.
- 6. We suggest clerk be paid \$30.00.
- 7. Clerk write resolution of Thanks.
- 8. We suggest that each church record and report their Children's Home Offerings Separate from other offerings.
- 9. We suggest that letter of explanation from each church be sent in absence of representation at the Quarterly meetings.
- 10. Delete United from the front cover of the Minutes.

Committee discharged, Bro. Glen Wilkinson, Chairman.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance, Sept. 25, 1976	\$314.41
Paid for Minutes	115.00
Paid Clerk	25.00
Paid Ala. State Association	25.00
Paid for Printing Membership cards	17.68
Balance, Sept. 23, 1977	\$131.73

Treasurer, Bro. John Pinson

Thanks was given to all on the support and help given on the campsite. Rev. W.A. Wilkinson gave an up to date financial report on the campsite fund. Balance on hand is \$1,194.08. An offering was taken for the Children's Home, Thanks for the \$43.30. Delegates for the State Association are Sisters, Linda Pinson and Naomi Wilkinson. The reading clerk read the skeleton minutes.

RESOLUTION OF THANKS

We the Ministers, Executive Committee, Deacons and Delegates composing the Fifty First Annual Session of the Southern Union Association wish to express our sincere Thanks and Appreciation to New Bethany Church for their Hospitality shown us during this Association. We pray God's richest blessings on each of you.

The body formed a circle and took the parting handshake. Dismissed by Bro. John Pinson.

Marcia Dotson
Rt. 1, Box 266
Baker, Fla. 32531
Ph: (904) 537-9851

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 for Revival Meetings 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 1977

CHURCH & PASTOR	CLERKS	Total Members	Paid Pastor	Assoc. Purposes	Time of Meeting
First Free Will Baptist Church Pensacola, Fla. Rev. L.V. Pinson	Mrs. Ann Walker 131 Craft St. Pensacola, Fla. 32503	82	\$5237.20	\$40.00	Every Sunday and Sunday Night, Wed. Night
Shady Hill Church Rev. J.C. Matthews	Mrs. Learvene Bass Route 5, Box 269C Andalusia, Ala. 36420	59	\$720.00	\$78.25	Every Sunday and Sunday Night, Wed. Night
First Free Will Baptist Church Dozier, Ala. Rev. Webster Sasser	Mrs. Flossie Flowers Route 1, Box 259 Lapine, Ala. 36046	65	\$1673.00	\$25.00	Every Sunday and Sunday Night Wed. Night
New Shady Grove Church Rev. H.L. Scott			\$430.00	\$25.00	Sunday
New Bethany Church Rev. W.A. Wilkinson	Mrs. Ottie Lee Wilkinson Route 1 Holt, Fla. 32564	22	\$534.00	\$50.00	Fourth Sunday

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