

SOUTHERN UNION ASSOCIATION

OF

FREE WILL BAPTISTS

MINUTES

1997

MINUTES
OF THE
SEVENTIETH ANNUAL SESSION
OF THE
SOUTHERN UNION ASSOCIATION
OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS

1997 SESSION CONVENED AT
SHADY HILL F. W. B. CHURCH
NEAR ANDALUSIA, AL.
SEPT. 27, 1996

1998 SESSION
SHADY HILL FREEWILL BAPTIST CHURCH
near ANDALUSIA, AL.
SEPTEMBER 26, 1998
10:00 A.M.

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MEMBER CHURCHES

NEW BETHANY FREE WILL BAPTIST.....None
5478 Penny Creek Rd., Holt, Fl. 32564

SHADY HILL FREE WILL BAPTIST....(334)222-3764
Route 1, box 176, Andalusia, Al. 36420
Pastor Andrew J. Orsa.....(904)537-7181

GENERAL OFFICERS FOR 1997

Moderator.....Mr. Ralph Bass
Route 1, box 177, Andalusia, Al. 36420 (334)222 2887

Assistant Moderator.....Rev. Andrew J. Orsa
5333 Olin Merritt St., Baker, Fl.32531 (850)537-7181

Clerk.....Ina Walters
5478 Penny Creek Rd., Holt, Fl. 32564 (850)537-6752

Reading Clerk.....Mrs. Glynda Cupp
4814 Van Horn Dr., Milton, Fl. 32583 (850)623-3408

Treasurer.....Mr. Randy Bass
Route 1, Box 177, Andalusia, Al. 35420 (344)222-3654

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Mr. Ralph Bass.....(334) 222-2887
Route 1, Box 177, Andalusia, Al. 36420

Rev. Andrew J. Orsa.....(850) 537-7181
5333 Olin Merritt St., Baker, Fl. 32532

Mrs. Naomi Wilkinson.....(850) 537-3192
5440 Steele Rd., Baker, Fl. 32532

ORDAINING COUNCIL

Rev. Andrew J. Orsa
Autry Bass Leon Mims

Mr. Ed Bass
Randy Bass

MINISTERS PRESENT FOR ANNUAL MEETING

Rev. Andrew J. Orsa

PROCEEDINGS OF THE ANNUAL MEETING

The 71st session of the Southern Union of Free Will Baptist's met on September 27, 1997 at New Bethany Free Will Baptist Church.

The meeting began at 10 o'clock as Brother Ralph Bass welcomed those in attendance.

Moved by Joyce Bass, and seconded by Leon Mims that we go into conference.

The Congregation sang "Amazing Grace" as the customary handshake took place.

Prayer by Mavis McVay.

Letters read from each Church by Glynda Cupp and accepted by the Church body.

Letter read from First Free Will Baptist Church of Mobile from Diane Weave. Letter stated that they had closed their church and asked for our prayers. They were selling the Church property, and would be using the money for mission work.

Committees appointed.

Suggestion Committee: Marcia Dotson, Linda Mooney, Leon Mims, and Wavielee Mims.

Nomination Committee: Joyce Bass, Mavis McVay, Tony Orso, and Shelia Dawson.

Nominating committee suggested that the same officers be kept for one more year. Suggestion voted on and carried by Church Council.

Suggestions from the committee was voted on and carried by the Church Body.

Children's Home report by Leon Moms. Two new buildings moved into. 200 acres of land donated. Childrens' Home doing fine.

Sang "Wont It Be Wonderful There" and collected \$104 for Childrens' Home.

Preaching Service brought by Brother Tony Orso, "Let God Lead".

Meeting closed with departing handshake.

SUGGESTIONS FROM COMMITTEE

1. We suggest discussion on the benifits versus cost on memership in the State Association.
2. We suggest the 1998 Annual Meeting be at Shady Hill Church at 10:00 A.M.
3. We suggest the speaker be Brother Tony Orso.
4. Express and explore ways to increase Membership of Chruches.
5. Contact other Churches we might get interested in joining the Association.
6. Give young people more attention.
Allow children to participate in services.

BALANCE SHEET

BALANCE FORWARDED	\$3354.23
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CREDITS:

SHADY HILL DUES	\$100.00
NEW BETHANY DUES	100.00
CHILDRENS HOME OFFERING	<u>101.00</u>

TOTAL	<u>+301.00</u>
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3655.23

DEBITS:

ALABAMA ASSOC. FEES	150.00
CLERK FEES '96	100.00
MINUTES PRINTED '96	69.02
CHECK PRINTING	18.45
CHILDREN'S HOME OFFERING	101.00
CLERK FEES '97	100.00
MINUTES PRINTED '97	60.00

TOTAL	<u>-598.47</u>
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BALANCE AS OF 9/27/97	\$3056.76
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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. "Who so ever 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." Romans 10:13. "For in due season ye shall reap if ye 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 you 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 2:26. "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 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." Like 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 therefor 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 we 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.:
12John 13:16. "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 covenant shall be read, and if adopted, the right hand of fellowship shall be extended. 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 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, a clerk and treasurer, and not less than three trustees.
- Section 4. The church shall call there pastor at the next conference proceeding the last regular conference in the associational year, unless in case of vacancy, in such case they may call a conference for that purpose.

- Section 5. The church, in case of necessity, may call a conference and elect one of their members or a visiting minister as moderator.
- Section 6. Any church may hold a conference as often as it deems 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 the member refuses to attend the conference when notified to do so.
- Section 9. The church is to recommend the questioning of any member for licensing, the same as for ordination.
- Section 10. A presbytery of 5 ordained men shall be appointed by the moderator to hold office for 5 years 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 or female, to attend each conference meeting if possible. On the day, the pastor is expected to instruct the church in a spiritual manner by giving plain and pointed lessons on doctrine, discipline, 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 to see that justice is carried out. In case of his absence, he is to appoint some suitable brother to assume his responsibility when he thinks the situation warrants such action. He shall also hold a protracted meeting with his church once a year.
- Section 2** The deacons shall be elected by the church and shall hold office at the discretion of the church. They shall watch the flock, advise the untruly members, and report such to the church in conference when necessary. They may administer the ordinance of baptism, shall make all necessary arrangements for the communion, monitor the needs of the church and the support of the pastor. They shall take notice of such members who 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 same. He shall keep a record of the members and minutes of the business transactions of the church and shall read the same in conference as often as the church may demand. He 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 monies paid into the church general expenses, 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 until their successors are elected, unless removed for cause. They 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 immersion by an ordained baptizer.

- Section 7** Members must pay their debts contracted by themselves or make satisfactory arrangements with their creditors, and they shall help pay their pastor.
- Section 8** We recommend that each church elect a Home Missions 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 aid 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 the denomination that ordained him, the name of the church, the country, and the state. If possible, the presbytery the ordained him should also be named.
- Section 11** It is required of each church to do everything possible to promote religious work by encouraging your members to speak in public in behalf of our Saviour.
- Section 12** Each church shall encourage its members to attend every conference possible, to study the minutes, follow the rules and the articles of faith which are to 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 being called to order by the moderator.
- Section 14** All discussion in conference must be conducted with calmness and good feelings. Those who speak Section 14 must rise to their feet, address the moderator and stay with 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 any member be unreasonably long.
- Section 16** When the moderator speaks in debate, 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. The officers shall be elected every 2 years.
2. Each church may appoint up to 4 delegates to the Association each year.
3. All deacons from the different churches are to be counted as standing delegates to the Association.
4. Minutes will be kept by the Clerk of the Quarterly Meeting and recorded in the annual minutes.
5. The clerk is to write the Resolution of Thanks.
6. Each church is to record and report their Children's Home offering separate from other offerings.
7. A letter of explanation from each church is to be sent in absence of representation at the Quarterly Meetings.
8. No minister shall be held responsible for marrying anyone unknowingly who has previously been married, having a living husband or living wife.
9. No minister is to be called as pastor or used as an evangelist in any church in this Association without being subject to questioning by the ordaining council.
10. Each church recommends someone from their membership to be placed on the executive committee every two years.

GUIDELINES FOR ORDINATION

- 1. This Association ordains no man that has more than one living wife; nor a man whose wife has more than one living husband.**
- 2. Every minister carries a license until he is either called to a church or enters full time evangelistic work. The license of ministers licensed by this Association are to be reissued each year if the church of which they are member makes this request.**
- 3. This Association ordains no one that doesn't fully believe the faith and practices of the Free Will Baptist Treatise.**
- 4. This Association ordains no one that doesn't believe and practice tithing.**
- 5. This Association ordains no one that doesn't believe in the verbal inspiration of the Word of God.**
- 6. This Association will not ordain women to preach the Gospel.**
- 7. This Association will not ordain anyone that is affiliated with the World Council of Churches.**
- 8. This Association will not ordain anyone with a bad testimony with them that are without.**
- 9. This Association will not ordain anyone that doesn't believe and practice the ordinances of the church.**
- 10. This Association will not ordain anyone that doesn't believe a person can apostatize and be lost.**

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 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 the grace and in 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 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 to 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 the gospel.

We will everywhere hold Christian principles 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.

STATISTICAL TABLE

CHURCH	CLERK	MEMBERSHIP	PAID FEE	SERVICE SCHEDULE
New Bethany FWB Holt, Florida	Glynda Cupp 4814 Van Horn Rd. Milton, Fl. 32583 (850) 623-3408	13	\$100.00	Fourth Sunday Preaching S.S. each Sunday
Shady Hill FWB Andalusia, Alabama	Mavis McVay Rt. 1, Box 182 Andalusia, Al. 36420 (334) 222-3764	36	\$100.00	Sunday Mornings Wednesday Evenings

CHURCH	SUNDAY SCHOOL ENROLLMENT	BAPTISMS	MEMBERS ADDED	C.T.S. MEMBERS
NEW BETHANY FWB HOLT, FL.	10	0	0	0
SHADY HILL FWB ANDALUSIA, AL.	36	0	0	0