



**SOUTHERN UNION  
OF**

**FREE WILL  
BAPTISTS**

**MINUTES 2003**

**MINUTES**  
**OF THE**  
**SEVENTY SEVENTH ANNUAL SESSION**  
**OF THE**  
**SOUTHERN UNION ASSOCIATION**  
**OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS**

**2003 SESSION CONVENED AT**  
**SHADY HILL F.W.B. CHURCH**  
**NEAR ANDALUSIA, AL.**

**SEPT. 28, 2003**

**2004 SESSION WILL CONVENE AT**  
**SHADY HILL F.W.B. CHURCH**  
**NEAR ANDALUSIA, AL.**

**SEPT. 26, 2004**

**9:45 AM**

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## MEMBER CHURCHES

NEW BETHANY FREE WILL BAPTIST... (850) 537-6752

5478 PENNY CREEK RD., HOLT, FL 32564

SHADY HILL FREE WILL BAPTIST..... (334) 222-3764

9905 HEAD QTR CAMP RD, ANDALUSIA, AL 36420

## GENERAL OFFICERS FOR 2003

MODERATOR.....MR. RALPH BASS

9905 HEAD QTR CAMP RD., ANDALUSIA, AL. 36420

(334) 222-2887

ASSISTANT MODERATOR.....WAYNE ETHERIDGE

35299 U.S. 29, ANDALUSIA, AL 36420

CLERK.....INA WALTERS

5478 PENNY CREEK RD., HOLT, FL 32564

(850) 537-6752

READING CLERK.....GLYNDA CUPP

4814 VAN HORN DR., MILTON, FL 32583

(850) 623-3408

TREASURER.....MR. RANDY BASS

10013 HEAD QTR CAMP RD., ANDALUSIA, AL 35420

(344) 222-3654

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

MR. RALPH BASS..... (344) 222-2887  
9905 HEAD QTR CAMP RD., ANDALUSIA, AL 36420

MS. NAOMI WILKINSON..... (850) 537-3192  
5440 STEELE RD., BAKER, FL 32532

LLOYD SMITH

**ORDAINING COUNCIL**

MR. ED BASS  
LEON MIMS

AUTRY BASS  
RANDY BASS

**MINISTERS PRESENT FOR ANNUAL MEETING**

WAYNE ETHERIDGE (334) 388-5842  
35299 U.S. 29, DOZIER, AL 36208

## PROCEEDINGS OF THE ANNUAL MEETING

The 77th session of the Southern Union Association of Free Will Baptist met on September 28, 2003.

Meeting called to order by Ralph Bass. Moved to go into conference by Ed Bass. Seconded by Wava Lee Mims.

Election of officers: Moved by Ed Bass we keep same officers except Assistant Moderator.

Deaths: Mrs. Mathews and Sible Cayson.

Treasurers report read by Randy Bass and accepted by church body. Balance \$2,646.76.

Childrens home report by Leon and Wava Lee Mims. Have some new buildings, land donated, and horses. 26 children in home at this time. Collection for children's home \$104.

Moved we adjourn by Glynda Cupp and seconded by Joyce Bass. Meeting closed with customary song and handshake.

## SUGGESTIONS FROM THE COMMITTEE

1. We suggest the next association meeting be held at Shady Hill Church on Sept. 26, 2004.
2. Message to be brought in the morning by the pastor with business conducted in the afternoon.
3. Visit other churches we might get interested in joining our association. Contact Pensacola and others.
4. Contact inactive members by mailing a card, calling or visiting. Each church appoints someone to facilitate this.
5. Explore ways to increase membership of churches.
6. Give young people more attention and responsibility in the church. Have activities maybe once a month on Saturdays.
7. Encourage everyone to come to prayer meetings on Wednesday nights.
8. Encourage daily Bible readings. Have more revivals and singings.

9. Remove Matt Smith from the executive committee.

10. In order for a pastor to be dismissed from his position, the following steps must be taken:

The matter must be presented to the deacons for their discussion and the charges presented to the pastor. The pastor must have the opportunity to give his account of the charges to the deacons. If the deacons, in their opinion,, feel there is just cause to remove the pastor, they shall call a special meeting of the members of the church and the allegations shall be discussed with the entire membership of the church. The pastor shall have an opportunity to present his defense of the charges to the membership. The membership of the church shall prayerfully consider the matter and the entire membership shall vote on whether or not to dismiss the pastor.



## 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 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. 6:19. "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 out 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. 14:22.

11. As to oneness of the Christian Church-"Is Christ divided?" I Cor. 1:13. "I am the vine, ye are the branches." 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. 15:32.

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." John 13:16. "Because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example." I Peter 2:21.

## **AS TO THE RULES-ARTICLE 1**

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.
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.
3. The officers of a church shall be a pastor, one or more deacons, a clerk and treasurer, and not less than three trustees.
4. The church shall call their pastor at the next conference proceeding the last regular conference in the associations year, unless the case of vacancy. In such case they may call a conference for that purpose.
5. The church, in case of necessity, may call a conference and elect one of their members for a visiting minister as moderator.
6. Any church may hold a conference as often as it deems necessary.
7. It is suggested that the churches commune and wash the members' feet as often as convenient, and it shall not be postponed on account of disobedient members.

8. The church shall not try a member without a hearing unless the member refuses to attend the conference when notified to do so.
9. The church is to recommend the questioning of any member for licensing, the same as for ordination.
10. A presbytery of five ordained men shall be appointed by the moderator to hold office for five years to conduct ordination of members of deacons for this association or any church connected with this association.
11. Deacons shall not be ordained until they are tried.
12. Each minister shall be a member of some live church and be in good standing.
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.
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.

## AS TO THE RULES-ARTICLE 2

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.

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 unruly 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 support 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.

3. The clerk shall be elected by the church and shall hold office at the discretion of same. The clerk 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. The clerk shall turn all books and papers over to the successor in office.



4. The treasurer shall be elected by the church, and shall hold office at the will of same. The treasurer shall hold monies paid into the church and pay out for general expenses. The treasurer shall turn over all money and papers to the successor.
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 conference.
6. No one shall be received in the church unless Scripturally baptized by immersion by an ordained baptize.
7. Members must pay their debts contracted by themselves or make satisfactory arrangements with their creditors, and they shall help pay their pastor.
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.
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.
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 that ordained him should also be named.

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 Savior.

12. Each church shall engorge 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.

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.

14. All discussion in confernence gt 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,

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.

16. When the moderator speaks in debate, he shall nominate some other moderator in his stead.

17. No one shall be interrupted while speaking unless it is necessary to call him to order.

18. The Executive Committee is the governing body of the association, to act on things pertaining to the association when it is not in session.

## PERMANENT REGULATIONS

1. The officers shall be elected every two years.
2. Each church may appoint up to four 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 unknowingly marrying anyone who has previously been Married, having a living husband or living wife.
9. No minister is to be called a 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 that no man has more than one living wife, or a man's wife has no 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 is to be reissued each year if the church of which they are a 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 is 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 a sanction of the use and sale of intoxicating beverages, and to provide things honest in the sight of men.

We agree faithfully to discourage out 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 Savior 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 1

CHURCH	CLERK	MEMBERSHIP	PAID FEE	SERVICE SCHEDULE
New Bethany FWB Church, Holt, FL	Glynda Cupp 4814 Van Horne Rd. Milton, FL 32583 (850) 623-3408	20	\$100	Sunday School-Sunday
Shady Hill FWB Andalusia, AL	Ann Bass	46	\$100	Sunday Mornings Wednesday Evenings

## STATISTICAL TABLE 2

CHURCH	SUNDAY SCHOOL ENROLLMENT	BAPTISMS	MEMBERS ADDED	C.T.S. MEMBERS
New Bethany FWB Church, Holt, FL	11	0	0	0
Shady Hill FWB Andalusia, AL	40	2	2	0