



&MINUTES >

OF THE

TWELFTH ANNUAL SESSION

-OF THE-

State Line Freewill Baptist Association,

—CONVENED WITH —

New Hope Church, Dale County, Alabama, Oct. 7th, 8th, and 9th, A. D., 1897.

OFFICERS:

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

R G. HATCHER, J. G. MILLER, J. M. CHANCE, J. W. H. SKETOE, L. W. GRIFFIN.

The next session of this Association will convene with Rocky Grove Church, Jackson County, Florida, on Thursday at 9 o'clock, before the Second Sunday in October A. D. 1898. Located about 5 miles North East of Greenwood, on Old Wire Road.



J. S. GARDNER'S JOB PRINT.

1897.







Proceedings:

Pursuant to adjournment, the Twelfth Annual Session of the State Line Freewill Baptist Association convened with New Hope Church, Dale County, Ala., on Thursday at 11 o'clock, before the second Sunday in October, A. D., 1897.

Introductory services directed by Rev. G. L. Love, from the 10th Chapter of the Acts of the Apostles, and the first clause of the 39 verse, followed by Rev. J. A. Robinson.

After introductory exercises, the body vacated until two p. m. for refreshments.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON SESSION.

According to announcement the body re-assembled in the church and in the absence of the former Moderator the former Clerk opened the business session by reading 2nd chapter of Philippians, and singing hymn, "A Charge to Keep I Have," after which we humbled in divine supplications with Eld. D. L. Chandler.

The house was then temporarily organized by electing Rev. J. I. Hatcher, Moderator pro-tem, after which business was dispatched in the following order, viz.

Letters from the various churches were called for, handed in and read by Bros. H. G. Green and R. G. Hatcher, and their state minuted.

The churches and delegates were then enrollld as follows:

- 1. Oak Lawn-L. C. Messer, H. G. Green.
- 2. Silver Run—Leander Riley.
- 3. Spring Hill-L. W. Griffin, A. C. Mercer, A. Z. Culbreth.
- 4. Hickory Grove—J. T. Stephens, J. W. Rodgers, Jefferson D. Stephens, R. G. Hatcher, H. T. Tindal.

- 5. Howard Grove—J. G. Miller, Joshua Bowen, Jeseph Miller, Mercus Bowen, Joseph Whitaker, Westley Toler, John Bowen, Willie Jordan, W. F. Radney, E. R. Williams, W. L. Rhodes.
- 6. Pittman Creek—R. Conner, W. B. Blalock, J. Justice, G. Faulk.
- 7. Rocky Grove—J C. Baxter, Wm. Rodgers, W. C. Thigpen, Wm. Chumbley, Thos. Evans.
- 8. Prospect—J. W. Conner, W. W. Clark, J. W. Hall, M. G. Howell, R. E. Hays, F. M. Lampp.

9. Union Spring—A. U. Justice.

- 10. New Hope, Dale, Co.—H. M. Matthews, T. M. Kirkland.
 - 11. Friendship J. M. Chance Wm. Shields.
 - 12. New Harmony-J. A. James, J. G. Granger.
 - 13. Springfield-E. Rabon, J. A. Givens.
 - 14. New Pilgrim-J. F. Thomas, Westley Golden.

On motion, all were received, with the stipulation, that the delegates who are absent their vacancies may be supplied with members from their respective churches.

After which the body was permanently organized by electing Eld. D. L. Chandler, Moderator and Jefferson D. Stephens, Clerk.

The Moderator, after complimenting the body, called for Petitionary Letters; three applicants received as follows, viz:

New Harmony, Springfield, and New Pilgrim.

On motion, they were received, and the right hand of fellowship extended to their delegates, first by the Moderator, followed by the body.

The various committees were then appointed as follows: viz:

On Divine Services—Brethren J. M. Chance, J. W. Conner, H. M. Matthews.

On Temperance—Brethren J. I. Hatcher, Thos. Evens, G. W. Cherry.

On Finance—Brethren J. W. Rodgers, A. Z. Culbreath, J. T. Stephens.

On Nominations Brethren R. G. Hatcher, M. J.

Howell, J. D. Berry, H. G. Green.

On Suggestions—Brethren G. W. Cherry, Rufus Williams, J. A. Robinson, Jefferson D. Stephens.

On Obituaries—Brethren G. L. Love, F. M. Lampp, A. U. Justice.

On Missions—Brethren A. C. Mercer, J. B. Kearns, H. T. Tidal.

On Sabbath Schools—Brethren J. T. Stephens, E. Rabon, J. F. Thomas, J. A. Givens.

On Documents—Brethren F. M. Lampp, J. G. Miller, Joshua Bowin, J. I. Hatcher.

On Education—Brethren Jefferson D. Stephens, G. W. Cherry, W. W. Clark, J. M. Chance.

On motion, called the roll to ascertain vacancies.

On motion, read the Decorum of the Association.

On motion of J. A. Rohinson, adjourned, in order for the committees to prepare their reports, and also deferred the calling of visiting brethren until morning. Adjourned to meet Friday morning at 8:30 o'clock.

FRIDAY MORNING SESSION.

According to previous arrangements, the body reassembled in the church, and was called to order by the Moderator, by reading a portion of the 8th Chapter of Romans, and singing hymn, "I Love Thy Kingdom Lord" after which we humbled in divine supplications with Rev. J. B. Kerns.

Called for report on Divine Services.

We your committee on Divine Services beg leave to submit the following report, to-wit: On Friday, preaching at 9 a. m. by Bro. J. B. Kearns followed by Bro. J. I. Hatcher. At 11 a. m. preaching by Bro. G. W. Cherry followed by Bro. J. D. Berry. Preaching at 3 p. m. by Bro. J. A. Robinson followed by Bro. Thomas. Preaching to-night at early candle light by Bro. J. B. Kerrns followed by Bro. D. L. Chandler. On Saturday; preaching at 9 a m by Bro. G. L. Love, followed by Bro. G. W. Cherry. Preaching at 11 a. m. by Bro. D. L. Chandler followed by Bro. J. B. Kearns.

J. M. CHANCE, Chairman.

On motion the report was received and a lopted, and committee discharged.

On motion called the roll and ascertained vacancies.

Called for correspondents from Sis.er Associations Two present from the South Eastern Association who comprise the following brethren, viz: Bro. Lock and Smith, and they were received by extending them the right hand of fellowship, first by the Moderator followed by the body.

Appointed correspondents to Sister Associations. On motion of J. W. Conner that the Moderator appoint the delegates to Sister Associations.

Whereupon the Moderator, proceeded to make the following appointments, to-wit:

To the South Eastern—Brethren G. W. Cherry, Frank Thomas, J. M. Whiddon, M. G. Howell, Nealy Whittle.

To the Martin-Brethren G. L. Love, Rufus Williams, D. L. Chandler.

To the Chattahoochee—Brethren G. W. Cherry J. Hatcher.

After which the Moderator announced preaching at the arbor.

On motion of A. C. Mercer, renewed the call for correspondents from Sister Associations Bro. W. M. Duncan, from the Liberty, presented himself for recognition, Whereupon on motion of Rev. G. W. Cherry, a committe of five retired to consult with Rev. W. M. Duncan upon the property of his correspondence with the State Line Association, which committee comprised the following brethren to-wit; H. G. Green, Bro. Rhodes, G. L. Love, G. W. Cherry and C. M. whittle.

Called for reports of the various committees:

ON FINANCE.

We your committee on Finance beg leave to s	ubmit
the following report, to-wit:	·
Received for minutes\$	14,70
Received for Associational purposes	13,50

Total..... \$ 28,20

Respectfully Submitted, J. W. Rodgers, Chairman.

On motion the report was received and adopted, and committee discharged.

* 13.

ON NOMINATIONS.

We, your committee on Nominations, beg leave to submit the following report, to-wit: We find that there are three petitions for the next session of this body. We recommend that the next session convene with Rocky Grove church, Jackson county, Fla. Bro. G. W. Cherry to preach the introductory sermon, followed by Bro. J. I. Hatcher. We suggest that the next session of this body convene on Thursday before the second Sunday in Oct. at 9 o'clock, A. D., 1898. We suggest that Bro. G. L. Love write the next Circular Letter.

R. G. HATCHER, Chairman Committee.

On motion the report was received and adopted, and committee discharged.

ON TEMPERANCE.

We, your committee on Temperance, beg leave to submit the following report: After carefully examining the report on Temperance of the last Association, we submit the same to you, asking this body to let it stand as it is. Respectfully Submitted, J. I. HATCHER, Chairman.

On motion the report was received and adopted, and committee discharged.

ON SUGGESTIONS.

We, your committee on Suggestions, beg leave to submit the following report, to-wit: We suggest that this Association invite Sister Associations to unite with her in a general Association to be held annually at some designated time and place for the purpose of promoting union and brotherly love in our denomination. We further suggest that all churches composing the different Associations be entitled to one delegate each. We, also, suggest that all preachers bring a full statement of their work at each association. G. W. Cherry, Chairman.

On motion the report was received and adopted, and committee discharged.

ON OBITUARIES.

We, your committee on Obituaries, beg leave to submit the following report, to wit: We find five deaths since the last session of this Association, and we recommend that their obituaries appear in our minutes.

G. L. Love, Chairman.

On motion the report was received and adopted, and committee discharged.

On motion, of Rev. G. W. Cherry, read the obituary of Rev. R. G. Hatcher. After the reading the body joined in singing a portion of hymn, "The old ship of Zion," after which the body bowed in prayer with Rev. G. W. Cherry.

ON MISSIONS.

We, your committee on Missions, beg leave to submit the following report, to-wit: As we find no money on hand for missions, we, therefore, suggest that this body fall on some plan to raise funds to put a missionary in the field in the cause of Christ. A. C. Mercer, Chairman.

On motion the report was received and adopted and committee discharged.

On motion Bro. J. W. H. Sketoe, who was not a delegate, was permitted to speak on the subject of Missions, before the above report was finally adopted. On motion referred back, and stated in the reception of the committees report. "Received and Adopted."

ON SABBATH SCHOOLS.

We, your committee on Sabbath Schools, beg leave to submit the following report, to-wit: We learn that 5 Sunday Schools are in operation. We, the committee, beg leave to say that we regard the religious instruction of our children as second only to the preaching of God's word, and we insist that all of our churches go to work now to establish in each church of this Association a Sabbath School, because we are to raise our children up to know the commandments of our Lord. We, your comcittee, recommend the Freewill Baptist Litrature to be used in our schools.

J. T. Stephens, Chairman.

On motion the report was received the adopted, and committee discharged.

At this juncture a query arose, "Shall we adjourn for preaching?" On motion continued business.

ON DOCUMENTS.

We, your committee on Documents, beg leave to submit the following report, to-wit: We ask the Association to let the same litrature stand as it is. We also recommend that our churches use the "Manly's Choice Hymn Book," published by the "Baptist Book Concern," Louisville, Ky. As to a religious paper we know nothing about one, but we ask the body to discuss the paper question, that the body may learn where they might get one.

Respectfully Submitted. F. M. LAMPP, Chairman.

On motion the report was received and adopted, and committee discharged.

Called for the report of the committee on Rev. W. M. Duncan. Committee was not ready to report, and asked for further time, which, on motion, was granted.

ON EDUCATION.

We, your committee on Education, beg leave to submit the following report, to-wit: We believe educating the mind is very essential to the future development, happiness, and progress in life. It prepares men and women to better understand the word of God, and to more rightly divide its teachings to dying men and women. We insist that all of the members in this Association avail themselves of every possible opportunity to elevate the literary standing of our constituents, and their children. And labor for the erection of a general educational centre, wherein our preachers may qualify themselves to fill their honored calling, and also to labor for a denominational organ wherein our development may be made manifest to the world.

JEFFERSON D. STEPHENS, Chairman.

On motion the report was received and adopted, and committee discharged.

On motion adjourned till half past 2 for preaching and refreshments.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON SESSION.

Reassembled in the church and joined the Moderator in singing hymn "Am I a Soldier of the cross." After

which we humbled in divine supplication with the Moderator.

Called for Treasurer's report. Report as follows:
Received for minutes.....\$ 12 20
Received for Associational purposes, 10 85

Total.......23 05
Paid for printing minutes......\$ 13 05
Paid Clerk for his Services.......10 00
Balance on hand.........\$ 37
On motion the report was received.

Again called for the committee report on Rev. W. M. Duncan. Report as follows:

We the committee cannot agree to receive correspondents from the Liberty Association, without proper acknowledgements from the brethren that have been expelled from this Association. H. G. Green, Chairman.

On motion the report was received and adopted, and committee discharged.

Pending the adoption of the above report, on motion, Bro. W. M Duncan was permitted to assume the floor, and during which time he rendered acknowledgements for his former conduct, while a member of the State Line Association, and they were received from him as a private brother.

Called for the Circular Letter. None presented, Bro. Robert Hatcher, the one assigned to write it having died. On motion of Jefferson D. Stephens that Eld. D. L. Chandler prepare one for publication for this issue of the minutes. Amended by Rev. J. I. Hatcher that Rev. J. B. Kearns prepare the letter for publication instead of Eld. D. L. Chandler.

On motion of Rev. G. W. Cherry read the letter from Panther Creek Church. On motion of Rev. G. W. Cherry that the let er be received and a committee appointed to meet with Panther Creek Church. Voted down.

On motion Bro. John Robinson is excused the remainder of the session.

On motion of Rev. G. W. Cherry adjourned to meet Saturday morning at 8:00 at m.

SATURDAY MORNING SESSION.

According to previous arrangements the body re-as sembled in the church and joined the Moderator in singing 2 verses of hymn, "How firm a Foundation." after which we humbled in prayer with Bro. J. F. Thomas.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The subject of missions was again considered, and after discussing the matter, the following brethren paid the amount set opposite their names for the promotion of missionary work, viz:

J. A. Bowin \$ (50.	E. Raban	50
J. W. Hall	$^{\circ}$ 25	H. T. Tindal	50
J. A. Givins	50	W. W. Clark	40
J. W. Rodgers	50	J. T. Stephens	50
Joshua Bowin		J. A. James	•
D. L. Chandler	1 00	J. B. Kearns	50
Jefferson D. Stephens	1 00	Z. B. Habin	50 .
J. G. Miller	50		
J. M. Chance	50		-
J. W. Conner	50	Total	\$ 9 65

The following brethren pledged the amount set opposite their names for millions, to be paid at the next session of this body, viz:

J. A. Robinson	\$1 00	Thomas Evens		50
L. W. Griffin	50	F. J. Thomas	1	00
J. W. Hall	1 00	T. M. Kirkland	1	00
J. C. Thomas	1 00	A. U. Justice	4.	50
W. B. Blalock	-	D. L. Chandler		
A. C. Mercer	2 00	Jefferson D. Stephens	1	00
J. G. Miller	•	!		
Richard McGriff	1 00	Total	\$12	5 0

On motion, Bro. G. L. Love being sick, was excused from preaching at 9 a. m.

On motion, Bro. J. C. Thomas filled Bro. G. L. Love's appointment, followed by Bro. J. B. Kearns.

On motion of Rev. John Robinson that we hear the report of the preachers on their years work.

Reports as follows, viz:

Brethren: I have been pastor of Spring Hill Church for the past year. I have preached thirty-four sermons as best I could. I have baptized ten, restored eight, Sup-

erintended a Sabbath School nearly two quarters.

J. A. Robinson.

In the year 1897 I preached to three churches, I baptized twenty-six, received in the church 46 and preached 72 sermons.

G. W. Cherry.

The following brethren gave only a verbal report, viz: G. L. Love, C. M. Whittle and D. L. Chandler.

On motion of J. M. Chance that each minister make out a report of their work, and furnish the clerk with a manuscript, and that he have them published in the minutes. On motion of J. W. Conner, the ministers are relieved from acting on the Executive Committee.

Whereupon the moderator appointed the following brethren to compose the new Executive Committee, viz:

R G. Hatcher, J. G. Miller, J. M. Chance, J. W. H. Sketo and L. W. Griffin.

On motion of Rev. John Robinson that any minister may have the authority, where there are no other ministeriel power, to form a presbytery to organize churches.

At this juncture the 'discussion arose as to whether the church members alone shall elect their pastor or be assisted by those who are not members. The chair ruled that each church is an independent body; therefore has the right to say who shall vote in the election of a pastor.

On motion of J. W. Conner that we pay our clerk ten dollars. On motion of J. W. Conner that we pay remainder, after paying clerk ten dollars, to have minutes printed. Amended by Rev G. W. Cherry that the clerk have the number of minutes printed necessary, and then draw on the Treesurer for an amount sufficient to pay for them.

On motion of A. C. Mercer that we tender our heart-felt thanks to this community for their kind hospitality shown us during our stay with them.

On motion of J. W. Conner adjourned, and will meet with Rocky Grove Church, Jackson County, Flor'da on Thursday at 9:00 a. m. before the second Sunday in October, A. D., 1897.

JEFFERSON D. STEPHENS, D. L. CHANDLER, Clerk. Moderator.

THE SINNER QUESTION.

BY J. B. KEARNS.

"What must I do to be saved."—Acts 16-30.

We should guard against hasty reasoning and immature conclusions respecting this important questions. No man is competent to act as a juror in our civil or criminal courts who makes up his mind before the evidence has been given. Neither is it proper to intelligently settle the question before us, until he has heard and considered all the Holy Spirit has said on the subject. What is said in one place may be modified by what is said in another; hence the importance of bringing together in one view all the divine sayings touching this question. We read the following scripture as imbracing every distinct thought contained in the New Testament on the question before us. Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thy shall be saved; Acts 16:32. If Thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and believe in thine heart that God has raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved; Romans 10-9. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; Mark 16-16. Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ, for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the holy Spirit; Acts 2:38. This induction of passages shows the danger of relying exclusively on a single passage for a full and complete answer to this important question. One passage mentions nothing but faith as a condition of salvation, or pardon, and another repentance, and still another baptism. Now, to take the first passage by itself, and conclude that, that salvation is conditioned on faith alone, is to reason hastily and conclude rashly. Not only so but such conclusion would be a violation of the plain teaching of Gód's word. The Lord says: By work (or obedience) a man is justified, and not by faith only; James 2-24. If it be objected that the jailor to whom Paul said "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved," did not have the other condition before him, and therefore could not have understood there contents to have been implied in what Paul said to him, the answer is at hand. He had Paul present before him to tell the rest; and this the apostle proceeded to do when he preached to him the word of the Lord."

The Lord Jesus, before ascending to the Father, gave the commission to his deciples to go and preach saying: Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be dammed; Mark 16:15-16 This is the commission under which we are preaching today, and it is the commission under which Peter was acting when he said: Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; Acts 2-58. See how beautiful this harmonizes with the commission. Convicted sinners propound this great question that we are now considering, and where answered in the language just quoted. There is no obscurity in this language, it is plain in itself, and when viewed in the light of Mark, 16 16, it is very clear.

Now, if you are bothered by the consideration that the Scripture apparently give different answers to the question before us, the solution of the difficulty is easy. If the answer expresses only faith, as in the case of the jailor, it was because he was an unbeliever and needed first of all

to be brought to believe in the Savior. For the Lord says: Without faith it is impossible to please God; Heb. 11.6. 'If the answer expressed only repentance and baptism as in the case of Pentacost; it is because they were already believers, that conviction had already reached their heart, is evident from the statement of the text. When they heard this they were pierced to their heart; Acts 2.37. If only baptism is expressed as in the case of Saul: Arise and be baptized; Acts 22.16. It is because he was a penitent believer. He had seen the Lord and for three days had been praying, pentitent believer, Acts 14:9-11. The believer was not told to believe, nor was the penitent believer either told to believe or repent. The answer was suited to the condition of the person addressed. Now by combining all these answers we get the full answer to the question. What must I do I to be saved? The foregoing scriptures say:

Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, repent of your sins, confess the Lord as your savior and be baptized into the name of Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, in the apt language of Albert Barnes "this is the complete divine arrangement in order to the forgiveness of sins," or, in order to salvation from past sins. This is one scripturally translated from the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of God's dear son." Such obedience makes us simply "Christians" or 'deciples of Christ" Acts 11-26, members of the one body of which we read in the New Tesment. Now in conclusion sinner, won't you give your heart to God? to his service. Make a surrender of yourself to "The Lord and to the word of his grace." Look into the perfect law of liberty, and continue therein being not a for getful hearer, but a doer of the work, and you shall be shall be blessed in your deeds.

OBITUARIES.

Sacred to the memory of our beloved sister Hessie Loweary, who departed this life January 19, 1897. She was a faithful member with us, and was a member with us five years and about five months. Her age was sitteen years, eleven months and twenty-four days.

It has pleased the Lord to remove from our midst our worthy Brother, Eligy Hall. He has been living a consistent christian life in the free-will Baptist Church at Prospect for many years. He leaves a stricken companion and several children and grandchildren to mourn his loss. May they strive to meet him in Glory where there will be no sorrow. Died in his 87th year.

Geneva County, Ala., Oct. 2nd, 1897.—This is to certify that sister Nuncy Amerson was a consistent member in the church at Friendship, until she lost her mind, and was sent to the Asylum; there she died. Age not known nor the day of ner death. She died in the Asylum auring this year.

We are pained to chronicle the death of our belaved Brother Robert Hatcher. He was a most consistent, earnest, and devoted member of Hickory Grove Church He was a minister of the Gospel, and is sadly missed in our midst. He leaves a family, an aged father, relatives and many friends to mourn his departure. Peace be to him. He was born Oct 17th, 1854 Died June 20th, 1897. Age 42 years 8 months, and 3 days

SERMONS PREACHED AT THE ASSOCIATION.

The following is a full list, nearly, of the sermons preached during the Association, the name of the preachers officiating, together with the Scriptual texts used by them; viz: Thursday at 11 a m., preaching by Rev. G. L. Love, from Acts 10 chapter and first clause of the 39th verse followed by Rev. J. A. Robinson.

Friday at 9 a. m preaching by Rev. J. B. Kearns from I Cor. 1c. 10v. At 11 a. m. preaching by Rev. G. W. Cherry from Isaiah 9 c. 6 v. followed by Rev. James D. Berry. At 3 p. m. preaching by Rev. John Robinson from Prov. 22 c. 28 v. followed by Rev. C. J. Thomas. At night, preaching by Rev. J. B. Kearns from Matt. 5 c. 2 and 3vs. followed by Rev. G. L. Love.

Saturday at 9 a. m, Preaching by Rev. C. J. Thomas from St. John 2 c. 16 v. followed by Rev. J. B. Kearns.

STATISTICS OF THE ASSOCIATION.

The State Line Freewill Baptist Association was organized at Howard Grove Church, November 20th, 1886.

Year.	Moderator.	Clerk.	Church.	No.
1886.	D. L. Chandler	Calvin Dykes	Howard Grove	449.
1887	D. L. Chandler	Calvin Dykes	Beulah	477.
1888	R. M. Gray	Calvin Dykes	Macedonia	503.
1889.	R. M. Gray	Calvin Dykes	Friendship	516.
1890.	R. M. Gray		Lovewood	443.
1891.	R. M. Gray	Calvin Dykes	Prospect	339.
1892i	R. M. Gray		Silver Run	444.
1893.	D: L. Chandler	Jeff. D. Stephens	Hickory Grove	450
1894.	R. M. Gray	Jeff. D. Stephens	W	422
1895.	D. L. Chandler	Jeff. D. Stephens	Pittman Creek	503.
1896.	Calvin Dykes	Jeff. D. Stephens		568.
1897.	D. L. Chandier	Jeff. D. Stephens		653.

LIST OF ORDAINED MINISTERS & POSTOFFICES.

- 1. R M Gray, Ceneva, Goneva County, Alabama.
- 2 D L Chandler, Pansey, Henry County, Alabama.
- 3 Calvin Dykes Ashford, Henry County, Alabama.
- 3. J I Hatcher, Bascom, Jackson County, Florida.
- 5. G L Love, Howard, Henry County, Alabama.
- 6. B B Hollis, Newton, Dale County, Alabama.
- 7. J D Sowell, Newton, Dale County: Alabama.
- 8. J B Mills, Dothan, Henry County, Alabama.
- 9. G W Cherry, Dothan, Henry County, Alabama.
- 10. W W Tremontana, Eunola, Alabama.
- 11. Jordan Murdock, Ashlord, Henry County, Alabama.
- 12. C M Whittle, Echo, Dale County, Alabama.
- 13. J A Robinson, Crosby's, Henry County, Alabama.
- 14. H G Wiggins, Dothan, Henry County, Alabama.
- 15. James D. Berry, Eunola, Geneva County, Alabama.
- 16. Elbert J Davis, Izagone, Holmes County, Florida.
- 17. Jasper C. Thomas, Clio, Henry County, Alabama.
- 18. J B Kearns, Bascom, Jackson County, Florida.

LICENTIATE.

- 1 F M Swails, Warwick, Geneva County, Alabama.
- 2. S. Hunter, Columbia, Alabama

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

- 1. Organize.
- 2. Call for letters from the different churches.
- 3. Elect Moderator and Clerk.
- 4. Invite visiting brethren to seats with us.
- 5. Call for petitionary letters.
- 6. Appoint committee.
- 7. Call the roll and read the decorum.
- 8. Call for correspondents from sister Associations.
- 9. Appoint correspondents to sister Associations.
- 10. Call for report of Committee.
- 11. Call for circular letter.
- t2. Call for Treasurer's report.
- 13. Call for miscellaneous business.
- 14. Adjournment. 🔾

CONSTITUTION.

The Constitution of this Association is as follows:

Article I. This Association shall be composed of delegates, annually sent from the churches based in it.

Article II. The delegates from each church shall bear a letter signed by the Clerk of the church, certifying the appointment, to which shall be subjoined a table stating the members baptized, received by letter, restored, dismissed, excluded, dead within the last Associational year, the total membership and ordained and licensed ministers, the uame of the church and pastor, and the time of their monthly meeting and the name of their neares t postoffice.

Article III. Any church wishing to become a member of this body must bring a letter of dismission from some other orderly Association, or if it be a newly constituted body, it must send, by delegation, a letter stating the name of the minister, by whom it was constituted, and if it is found to be sound, it shall be received.

Article IV. Each church shall be entitled to two delegates for the first twenty-five members, and then one delegate for the fractional part of twenty-five.

Article V. It is expected that the churches composing this body will send delegates and contributions for minutes every session, and that no church will wirhdraw from the Association without assigning a reason for the intended withdrawal.

Article VI. The officers of this Association shall be a Moderator and Clerk. The Moderator shall preside over the body and enforce the rules of the Constitution and Decorum but shall not be allowed to vote except in a case of a tie, on any matter.

Article VII. It shall be the duty of the Clerk to minute the proceedings of the body in session, and to supperintend the publication of the same, and to do such other writing pertaining to the business of the body.

Article VIII. The Clerk shall, also, preserve a file of Minutes of the Association, which he shall deliver to his successor when be goes out of office.

Article IX. This Association shall meet annually, according to adjournment, and shall have power to transact all business pertaining to the general good of this body.

Article V. The Constitution and, also, the Decorum of the Association may be altered or amended during any session of the body by a vote of two-thirds of the delegates present.

DECORUM OF THE ASSOCIATION.

Article 1. It shall be the duty of the Moderator to precide over the deliberations of the body in session, preserve order, submit motions, or other matters. He may have the same right of speech as any other member, provided the chair be occupied, but is not allowed to vote except the body be equally divided, in which case he shall cast the deciding vote.

Article 2. The Treasurer shall keep a correct account of all the money coming into his hands, as the manner in which it is disbursed. He shall only pay out money upon the order of the Association of all funds received and disbursed by him, showing the balance, if any, on hand.

Article 3. Every motion made and seconded shall come under the notice of the bod unless withdrawn.

Article'4. The Association shall be opened and closed with prayer.

Article 5. The Moderator and Clerk shall be elected by ballot annually.

Article 6. Only one person shall be allowed to speak at the same time, and said speaker shall first address the Moderator, and shall not be interupted while speaking, except by the Moderator.

Article 7. The names of delegates shall be enrolled and called as often as the body may deem proper.

Article 8. The Moderator shall not interrupt the speaker while speaking, unless he departs from the subject in debate.

Article 9. All officers shall be elected by ball ot, except the Executive Committee. It shall be appointed.

Article to. If newly constituted churches, or others desire to be admitted into this union, they petition by letters and delegates, and if found upon examination to be orthodox and orderly, they shall be received by the Association, and such reception shall be manifested by giving the right hand of fellowship.

Article 11. The pastors of each church shall have power to form a Presbytery and ordain deacons for the church, also to examine preachers who may apply for such, also to examine ordained ministers who make application to our order, and if found sound, shall be set apart in ranks, but not to be re-ordained.

Article 12. We, therefore, resolve that no church nor minister shall be received into this Association that refuse to comply with the ordinances that is given us in the gospel, this decorum may be altered or amended as the body may see proper.

CHURCH DECORUM.

- 1. The church may choose a pastor annually, at the last regular conference in the Associational year, or, if they prefer it, may choose a pastor for an indefinate length of time to continue from year to year, so long as he may deem it proper to keep up the connection.
- 2. When it becomes necessary, a pastor may be chosen at any other time; but if the choice be made at a special conference, the time must be appointed at a monthly meeting of the church.
- 3. The pastor shall be the Moderator of the church, but when be is absent, or does not sit as moderator, being present, some suitable brother shall be appointed to sit in his place.
- 4. There shall be two or more deacons in the church, whose duty it shall be to superintend the collection and disbursement of all contributions made by the church for the pastor etc., and to distribute the bread and wine in the administration of the Lord's Supper.
- 5. The deacons shall also take notice of such members as refuse or neglect to partake of the Lord's Supper, and endeavor to ascertain the cause, that the same may be laid before the church, in conference, if necessary.
- 6. Some suitable member shall be appointed Clerk, and it shall be his duty to do all recording and other writing pertaining to the business of the church, and to preserve a file of the minutes of the Association.
- 7. When a new Clerk is appointed, all the books, minutes, etc., belonging to the Clerk, shall be immediately delivered to him by his predecessor.
- 8. When the chutrch deems it necessary, a committee of not less than three male members, well acquainted with business, shall be appointed whose business it shall be to give advice to brethren who apply to them relative to cases of dealing, etc., with the church.
- 9. The church shall hold a two days meeting monthly, embracing Saturday and the Lord's day following, the first of which shall be the regular time of conference.
- no. 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 spec al manner by giving plain and pointed lessons on doctrine, discipline, and the rules of holy living.
- member, who may be generally remiss in attending the meetings of the church, according to the covenant. Article 10, shall be cited to appear in conference and answer for his neglect, but the church may exempt members from this rule, if necessary.

- 12. Conferences, after prayer or divine services, shall be opened and conducted as fellows: Invite visiting brethren to scats with us. 2. Open the door of the church for the reception of members. 3. Call for the reading of the minutes of the last conference. 4 Call for absentees. 5. For acknowledgements. 6. For refrences or deferred business. 7. For new matters of dealing which is in order to come before the body. 8. For miscellaneous business.
- 13. Visiting brethren, as also helps called in from sister churches, shall be allowed to speak or make motions or seconds, but not allowed to vote.
- 14. An orderly member of the Baptist church, which does not hold this church in fellowship may be received into the church without a letter, when it is made apparent that his christian character is unimpeachable, and that he has applied for a letter, and could not obtain it because he desired to join this or some sister church. All other persons must join by letter or baptism.
- 15. No member shall be received without the unanimous consent of the members present; but unreasonable objections shall not be valid; and unless withdrawn, the member who makes them shall be liable to be taken under dealing by the church.
- ref. When the moderator calls for absentees, the clerk shall inform the church what members have been absent from three successive conferences, and the moderator shall appoint some brother or brethren to ciee each of them to the next conference.
- 17. No member shall be expelled unless he has been cited verbally or in writing to attend his trial, provided his residence be known to the church.
- 18. When a witness not a member of this church is introduced, he shall not be examined till the question has been put to the church, "Will you hear the testimony of this witness?"
- 19. The evidence in every case of dealing and acknowledgement shall be minuted in the church book.
- 20. Members dismissed from this church by letter who become disorderly, or continue to hold their letters without a good reason shall be cited to conference to answer for their conduct.
- 21. Expelled members may be restored to fellowship on their petition, if their walk since expulsion has convinced the church that they have sincerely repented of their former evil conduct.
- 22. A vote shall not be taken upon any question without a move and second, and in all important questions the vote shall be taken by rising to the feet.
 - 23. No motion shall be made while a move and second is before the conference.
- 24. It shall be considered disorderly for any member to absent himself from conference when an important question is to be decided; but a member upon his own request may be exempted by the church from voting on either side in peculiar cases.
- 25. No member shall leave the house during conference without sufficient cause, nor engage in conversation nor whispering, without being subject to be called to order by the moderator.
- 26. All discussions in conference must be conducted with calmness and good feeling. Those who speak must arise to their feet and address the moderator, and keep to the point in debate.
- 27. No one shall speak more than three times on the same motion without permission from the moderator, nor shall the remarks of any one be unleasonably long.
- 1 28. When the moderator speaks in debate, he must nominate some other moderator in his stead.
- 29. No one shall be interrupted while speaking unless it is necessary to call him to order.
- 30. It shall be the rule of the church to attend to the administration of the Lord's Supper, at least four times a year, and the expenses are to be paid by the church.
- 31. Members not in good standing shall not commune, but the administration shall not be deferred on account of any ordinary matter of dealing.
 - 32. Feet washing shall be attended to as the church sees proper.
 - 33. Pubile fasting, humiliation and prayer shall be observed on proper occasions.
- 34. The decorum may be altered or amended by a vote of two thirds of the members present at any two successive monthly conferences.

ARTICLES OF FAITH.

rst. OF God:—We believe that there is one and only one living and true God, infinite in all his attributes, the Creator, Preserver and Governor of the Universe revealed to us in the Scriptures as the Father, Son and Holy Ghost. 1st. ch, Tim 17th v; Isiah 45 ch. 22 v; St. John 17 ch. 3rd v; St. John 1st, 2nd and 3rd.

2nd. THE HOLY SCRIPTURES:—We believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament were given by inspiration of God and are binding on all as our infallible rule of faith and practice. 2nd Tim. 3rd ch. 16th v.: Romans 15 ch. 4th v., 4th ch. 23, 24 vrs; Peter 1st ch. 21st v.

3rd. OF CHRIST:—We believe He is God manifest in the flesh, being in His divine nature true God in human nature; true man, uniting the person of the Messiah and Mediator for the redemption of the world. Luke 2nd ch. 4th to 12th vs. inclusive, Matt. 1st ch. 18, 19, 20 and 21 vs.

4. OF THE HOLY SPIRIT:—We believe that He is the third person in the Holy Trinity and possesses all personal divine attributes; being the Reprover, Comforter and Sanctifier St. John 14th ch. 25th v., 15th ch. 26th v., 16th ch. 7th 15th verse inclusive.

5th. Of Salvation:—That the blessings of salvation are made free to all by the gospel, that it is the immediate duty of all to receive it by cordial and obedient faith, and that nothing prevents the salvation of any so long as the Spirit continues to strive with them, but their own voluntary refusal to submit to the Lord Jesus Christ. Rom. 15th vs. Phil. 2nd ch. 12th v. Heb. 2ch. 3rd vs.

6th. The Fall of Man:—We believe that man was created sinless but by disobedience fell into a state of sin and condemnation, all his posterity inherited this fallen nature, and all that come to years of accountability will sin and come short of the glory of God, except that they receive salvation through the Lord Jesus Christ. Gen. 3rd ch. 6th vs. 1st ch. 26th vs. 5th ch. 1st. vs. 9th ch. 6th vs; Cor. 11th ch. 7th vs.; Roman 3rd ch. 28th vs; Mark 16th ch. 16th vs.; Acts 10th ch 43 vs.

7th. THE ATONEMENT:—We believe that Christ in his great compassion offered himself as sacrifice in our stead, therefore God desires the salvation of all and the Gospel invites all and whosoever will may come and partake of the Word of life freely. 1st Cor. 1st ch. 7th vs.; Eph. 5th ch. 2nd vs.; Heb. 2nd ch. 9th vs., 26th vs.; Rom. 5th ch. 15th vs. Rev. 22nd ch. 17th vs.

8th. Of Election:—We believe that God had not fixed the future state of man by any unconstitutional degree, delivered from the beginning to save all who would comply with the terms of salvation. John 8th ch. 31st vs.: Luke 11th ch. 28th vs.; Acts 10 ch. 35th vs.; Deut. 11th ch. 26th, 27th and 28th vs.

oth. On Perseverence:—We believe that none will be finally saved but those who through grace, persevere in holiness to the end. John 8th ch. 31st vs. Tim. 1st ch, 19th vs.; 2nd Peter 2nd ch. 21 and 22nd verses.

water and the Lord's Supper and the washing of the Saints feet are ordinances to be perpetuated under the Gospel of universal salvation and to be observed by all true befievers. Reference for Baptism. John 3rd ch. 5th vs.; Rom. 6th ch. 4th vs Reference for the Lord's Supper. Matt. 26th ch. 26th, 27th and 28th vs. Reference for washing the Saint's feet. Johns 13th ch. 5th to 17 vs.

Savior as a commemorative ordinance, that the bread and wine represent His body and blood, that it was instituted for Christians and that all Christians should unite in performing the sacred service, regardless of name, denomination or distinction. Gal. 6th ch. 4th vs.; Matt. 7th ch. 10th vs.; Rom. 14th ch. 3rd and 4th vs.

judgement, and when the resurection takes place, the soul and body will re-unite and form an immortal being that the righteous will be received into everlasting happiness, and the wicked will be driven to everlasting darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. John 5th ch. 28th and 29th vs.; Acts 24th ch. 15th v.; Isaiah 28th ch. 17th vs. Heb. 9th ch. 27th verse.

STATISTICS OF THE STATE LINE FREEWILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.—1897.

Churches and Counties.	Names of Delegates.	Pastors.	CLERKS AND POST-OFFICES.	Baptized	Dismissed by Letter.	Received on Confession.	Died	Days of meeting	Number of Members	Paid for Minutes	For Missions
Hickory Grove, Jackson Co. Fla	J G iller, J Bowen, J Miller, M Bowen, J Whitaker, W Toler, J Bowen, W Jor-	Sam Ely		13	I	7 3	1 3	4th 4th		*	71 50 2 00
Howard Grove, Henry Co., Ala Prospect, Henry Co., Ala Spring Hill, Henry Co., Aia	W Conner, WW Clark, J. W Hall, M.	D L Chandler		12	3 2	13 6 4 5	3	3rd 2nd		2 20 75	2 00 75
New Hope, Dale, Co, Ala Union Spring, Henry, Co., Ala		J M Murdock	J W H Sketse. Echo, Ala A U Jüstice. Pansey, Ala		7 34	2 3	1 7	3rd 2nd	31	60 75	35 75
Pittman Creek, Holmes, Co, Fla	Wm Chumbley, Thomas Evens. R Conner, W B Blalock, J Justice, G. Faulk	J D Sowell	W C Thigpen, Greenwood, Fla Jordan Tucker, Eunola, Ala W T Riley, Pansey, Ala	8	2 1	8	7	31d 3rd 3rd	52	1 00	1 20
Silver Run, Henry, Co., Ala Oak Lawn, Jackson, Co, Fla Friendship, Geneva, Co, Ala	L C Messer, H G Green	Rest Market Land Company	H G Green, Dellwood, Fla John Hatcher, Highfalls, Ala	3	4	I	I 2	2nd 1St	14	1 00 50	/
New Harmony, Henry Co., Ala	J A James, J G Gringer	J M Murdock	Vm. Hicks, Cottonwood, Ala J F Thomas, Oats, Ala	6 3 I	4	I		2nd	20	50 50	
Springfield, Henry Co, Ala TOTALS		D L Chandler	M Nall, Nall, Ashford, Ala	89 6	6 44	6 	5 27	4th		14 80	13 50