

MINUTES  
OF THE  
Sixteenth Annual Session  
OF THE  
STATE LINE  
FREEWILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

CONVENED WITH  
Antioch Church, Holmes County, Florida, October  
10th and 11th, 1901.

OFFICERS:

Moderator.....REV. CALVIN DYKES.  
Clerk.....J. W. D. STEPHENS.  
Treasurer.....REV. G. L. LOVE.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

CALVIN DYKES, R. G. HATCHER, G. W. CHERRY,  
J. M. CHANCE, W. CLARK.

The next meeting of this Association will convene with  
Union Springs Church, Henry County, Alabama, at 11  
o'clock A. M., on Thursday before the second Sunday in  
October, 1902. Located three miles north of Pansy, Ala.

## PROCEEDINGS.

Pursuant to adjournment the Sixteenth Annual Session of the State Line Freewill Baptist Association convened with Antioch church, Holmes county, Florida, on Thursday before the second Sunday in October, A. D. 1901.

The introductory services were conducted by Rev. C. M. Whittle from Romans 8:14. Rev. J. I. Hatcher, who had been nominated to open the services, was not present.

The Association adjourned for one hour and thirty minutes for refreshments.

### THURSDAY—AFTERNOON SESSION.

The Association reassembled at the appointed time.

Moderator G. W. Cherry read the 116th chapter of Psalms. "Oh, for a heart to praise our God!" was sung by the body, after which the Moderator offered prayer.

The Association was then called to order by the former Moderator and business proceeded with.

J. W. D. Stephens was made Clerk pro tempore in the absence of the former officer.

Letters from the various churches were called for and read by Rev. Calvin Dykes and Brother H. D. Green and their state minuted.

The churches and delegates were enrolled as follows:

1. Prospect—L. O. Searcy, W. W. Clark, J. W. Conner.
2. Hickory Grove—J. W. D. Stephens, J. M. Robinson, H. G. McCullough.
3. New Home—John Mercer, J. B. Whitaker.
4. Howard's Grove—J. F. Capps, Ben Williams.
5. New Harmony, Henry County—A. J. Granger, J. J. Granger.
6. Pilcher Pond—Mason Chason, J. D. Medlock.
7. Antioch—John Culver, T. Y. Woodward.
8. Union Springs—W. H. Jenkins, D. V. Olive.
9. Ardilla—J. W. Hall, J. F. Fillimgim, Amos Mixon.
10. New Hope—A. M. Kirkland.

11. Friendship—J. D. Marlo, J. B. Fershee.
12. Springfield—J. P. Williams, J. A. Givens.
13. Pittman Creek—J. J. Hatcher, G. R. Faulk.
14. Pleasant Ridge—C. W. Davis, W. D. Ward.
15. New Harmony, Geneva County—David Nixon, W. B. Smothers, L. V. Elmore, Z. B. Hagins.
16. Rocky Grove—R. T. Baxter, M. J. Mercer.
17. Freewill's Rest—H. G. Green, L. C. Messer.
18. Turner Spring—G. W. Arnold, H. L. Gomilian, R. P. Powell, J. R. Calvin.

On motion of C. M. Whittle, Brother Z. B. Hagins was added to the New Harmony delegation, after which he represented his church by proxy.

Calvin Dykes moved that preaching be held in the arbor in the afternoon. Adopted.

The Moderator appointed Brother J. D. Alford to preach, assisted by Brother J. W. Bruner.

J. M. Robinson moved that Brother H. D. Green represent Freewill's Rest by proxy. Adopted.

Rev. D. L. Chandler moved that Spring Hill church's name be changed to New Home. Adopted.

Brother Calvin Dykes moved to proceed with the election of a Moderator and Clerk.

The Association then permanently organized by electing Rev. Calvin Dykes as Moderator and J. W. D. Stephens as Clerk.

After taking the chair the Moderator invited visiting brethren to seats with the Association.

A call was made for petitionary letters and resulted in the reception of one from Turner Spring.

On motion of J. W. Connor the letter was read by the Clerk.

On motion of Brother J. M. Robinson the church was received, and while singing a hymn the right hand of fellowship was extended by the Association to her delegate.

A motion was made and adopted to appoint the various committees.

A motion was adopted to call the roll and erase the names of absent delegates, filling their places with any members present from their respective churches.

The various committees were then appointed as follows:

1. On Divine Services—Brethren John Culver, T. Y. Woodward, J. W. Conner.
2. On Suggestions—Brethren D. L. Chandler, J. A. Givens, J. W. Hall, A. J. Granger, J. B. Fershee.
3. On Sabbath Schools—Brethren H. G. McCullough, J. B. Whitaker, Ben Williams.
4. On Temperance—Brethren G. W. Cherry, D. L. Chandler, J. A. Givens.
5. On Finance—Brethren James F. Capps, J. J. Granger, Mason Chason.
6. On Nominations—Brethren L. O. Searcy, W. W. Clark, J. M. Robinson.
7. On Documents—Brethren Amos Mixon, A. M. Kirkland, J. J. Hatcher.
8. On Obituaries—Brethren J. D. Medlock, John Culver, T. Y. Woodward.
9. On Education—Brethren J. W. D. Stephens, John Mercer, W. H. Jenkins.
10. On Missions—Brethren H. G. Green, M. J. Mercer, Z. B. Hagins, C. W. Davis, R. P. Powell.

On motion of Rev. D. L. Chandler the Decorum was read

Correspondents from sister associations were called for, and on motion their reception was deferred until Friday morning.

On motion of Elder D L Chandler the report on divine services was called for and read as follows:

We, your Committee on Divine Services, beg leave to make the following report, to-wit:

Friday morning at 9 o'clock Rev. G. M. Hardie to preach, followed by Rev. J. D. Berry.

Friday morning at 11 o'clock Elder D. L. Chandler to preach, followed by Rev. G. W. Cherry.

Friday afternoon at 3 o'clock Rev. R. L. Medlock to preach, followed by Rev. J. C. Eldridge.

J. J. CULVER, Chairman.

On motion of Brother J. M. Hall the Association adjourned until 9 o'clock Friday morning.

The Association then joined in singing "Amazing grace, how sweet the sound!" closing with prayer by Elder D L. Chandler.



## FRIDAY—MORNING SESSION.

The Association met pursuant to adjournment and joined with the Moderator in singing, "Jesus, lover of my soul," after which Brother B. F. Pate invoked Divine supplication.

The call was renewed for corresponding and petitionary letters, which resulted in the reception of a corresponding letter from Freewill's Rest church. The church was received yesterday by proxy.

On motion the letter was read by the Clerk.

Brother J. M. Robinson moved that Brother L. C. Mes-ser be received as a delegate from Freewill's Rest church, which motion was adopted.

The call being renewed for correspondents from sister associations, three responses were made to the call—two by delegations and one by letter.

Rev. G. W. Cherry moved that Brother B. F. Pate of the Southeastern and Brother J. C. Eldridge of the Salem Association be received as correspondents. Adopted.

On motion the letter of correspondence from the Martin Association was received, after which the right hand of fellowship was extended to the two corresponding delegates by the Association.

On motion the Moderator read a letter from Rev. J. T. Knight, Moderator of the Salem Association, in which he stated his willingness to make acknowledgements for any accusation that was true, and that he desired union between the two associations.

A motion by Brother H. G. McCullough was adopted that we correspond with sister associations.

It was further amended by the adoption of a motion by Rev. G. W. Cherry that this Association will correspond with all sister bodies that it can get delegates to attend.

Elder D. L. Chandler moved to correspond with the Chattahoochee Association by letter. Adopted.

The following brethren either volunteered or were otherwise made delegates:

To the Martin Association—Revs. D. L. Chandler and Calvin Dykes, H. G. Green and J. W. Conner.

To the Southeastern Association—Revs. J. D. Sowell, G. W. Cherry, and J. D. Alford, J. W. Conner and J. D. Marlo.

To the Salem Association—Revs D. L. Chandler, G. W. Cherry, J. D. Sowell, Calvin Dykes, and J. I. Hatcher, J. A. Givens and H. G. Green.

To the Liberty Association—Revs G. W. Cherry and J. B. Bryan and J. W. Hall.

On motion no correspondent was appointed to meet with the Evergreen Association because its time and place of convening were not known

On motion of Rev J. C. Eldridge the delegation to the Salem Association was empowered to settle all existing differences between the State Line and Salem Associations.

A call was made for the report of the

#### COMMITTEE ON SUGGESTIONS.

X We, your Committee on Suggestions, beg leave to submit the following report, to-wit:

1. We suggest that this Association form and organize a stock company for the purpose of procuring a printing outfit for the purpose of advancing the Freewill Baptist cause

2. Brethren, we see that our pastors have not been cared for as they should be in the past, and we suggest that each church endeavor to do more for their pastors than they have heretofore.

D. L. CHANDLER, Chairman.

On motion the report was received and adopted, with an amendment that all the churches secure good titles to the land upon which they build, and the committee discharged.

#### COMMITTEE ON FINANCE.

We, your Committee on Finance, beg leave to submit the following report, to-wit:

Collected for minutes.....	\$20 65
Collected for Associational purposes.....	14 70

Total.....	\$35 35
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JAMES F. CAPPS, Chairman.

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

A. C. Mercer moved that a Treasurer pro tem be appointed. Adopted.

The Chair appointed Rev. G. W. Cherry.

On motion of A. C. Mercer it was ordered that all money received by the Treasurer pro tem. be turned over to Rev. G. L. Love, the Treasurer.

#### COMMITTEE ON DOCUMENTS.

X We, your Committee on Documents, beg leave to submit the following report, to-wit:

We ask the Association to let the literature remain as it is. We also recommend that our churches use Manley's Choice Hymn Book. We also recommend that our Clerk have nothing published that has been tabled or lost in the Association.

We also recommend that this Association use every means to secure more funds and have better printing done.

Respectfully submitted,

AMOS MIXON, Chairman.

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

#### COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION.

X We, your Committee on Education, beg leave to submit the following report, to-wit:

We heartily indorse any movement for the betterment and improvement of our people, intellectually as well as spiritually. We want and need educated talent to promulgate and direct Christ's cause. Education alone does not make a Christian—nay, God forbid!—but it does increase the Christian's power for good. We have public schools established throughout all our great country for the dissemination of knowledge, and we request and insist on parents giving their children an education.

Give your children wholesome literature to read; subscribe for one or more newspapers whose influence will be elevating—inspiring a higher plane of life, which will make worthy men and women of our dear children.

J. W. D. STEPHENS, Chairman.

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

#### COMMITTEE ON SABBATH SCHOOLS.

We, your Committee on Sabbath Schools, beg leave to submit the following report, to-wit:

We heartily indorse Sabbath schools. We believe

them to be good for the mind as well as the soul.

We found only three schools in our last Pastoral Associational year, with 130 pupils.

We hope to have more schools in the ensuing Associational year, and may they accomplish much good. We believe them to be good for the training of the young minds of our beloved children.

H. G. McCULLOUGH, Chairman.

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

#### COMMITTEE ON OBITUARIES.

We, your Committee on Obituaries, beg leave to submit the following report, to-wit:

We find that there have been only five deaths in our Association this year, and we recommend that their obituaries appear in our minutes.

J. D. MEDLOCK, Chairman.

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

#### COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS.

We, your Committee on Nominations, beg leave to submit the following report, to-wit:

We nominate Union Springs church, Henry county, Ala., for the next session of this Association.

We nominate Brother D L Chandler to preach the Introductory Sermon and Brother G. W. Cherry to close.

We nominate Brother Calvin Dykes to write the Circular Letter.

L O SEARCY, Chairman.

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

#### COMMITTEE ON TEMPERANCE.

We, your Committee on Temperance, beg leave to make the following report, to-wit:

Whereas, the liquor traffic is the greatest evil of the day; it is the king evil of all evils. It ruins a boy and blights his character; it ruins a man and destroys the peace of his wife and children; it blights the church and causes man to lie to man, to the church, to his wife and to God. It is against society and humanity, and God's word is pronounced upon a man who puts the bottle to his neighbor's lips.



This great evil has mortgaged more farms, desolated more homes, made more tramps, paupers and criminals than all other causes combined together. No matter what may be the wisdom of the financial side of the question or the wisdom of the church, so long as we legalize and patronize the grogshop so long will wretchedness and want abound; and, therefore, we call upon all those who are on the Lord's side to help us to fight this great evil.

Brethren, it paralyzes and pauperizes the church. The statistics show there are 240,000 saloons in the United States. Ninety-five per cent. of the church members drink whiskey. Brethren, it seems as if the Gospel had been starved out and the saloon kept alive. Let us reverse this order of affairs and starve out the saloon and keep up the church. The amount spent for whiskey each year is \$1,000,000,000. The church is the road to heaven and the saloon the road to hell.

G. W. CHERRY, Chairman

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

#### THE TREASURER'S REPORT

was called for and read as follows:

##### RECEIPTS.

Received for minutes.....	\$17 30
Received for Associational purposes.....	17 60
Total.....	\$34 90

##### DISBURSEMENTS.

Paid for printing minutes .....	\$17 10
Paid for postage .....	1 25
Paid the Clerk for services rendered.....	10 00
Total.....	\$28 35
Amount at present in the hands of the Treasurer.....	\$28 35

G. L. LOVE, Treasurer

On motion the report was received.

#### COMMITTEE ON MISSIONS.

We, your Committee on Missions, beg leave to make the following report, to-wit:

Although we find that this Association has made an effort and failed to raise funds for the purpose of sending out missionaries to work, we still deem such steps would be in furtherance of and beneficial to the cause of missions notwithstanding previous failure.

We find some funds still in the treasury for missions which are not being used for any purpose whatever, and

would suggest that the said funds be used for the good of the Association. If the proposed stock company should be organized for the purpose of procuring a printing outfit, we would suggest that this money be used in purchasing a press as a part of such printing outfit.

H. G. GREEN, Chairman.

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

On motion of Brother A C Mercer the Circular Letter was read.

On motion it was received and adopted and ordered to be published.

#### MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS.

Brother B. F. Pate moved that the General Association convene with Prospect church, Henry county, Ala., on Friday night before the third Sunday in December, which was adopted.

Brother J. W. Conner moved that each of the various churches send one delegate to the General Convention, which was adopted.

On motion the Association adjourned for refreshments, Brother J. C. Eldridge offering prayer.

#### FRIDAY—AFTERNOON SESSION.

The Association reassembled pursuant to adjournment and joined with the Moderator in singing, "O, for a closer walk with God," after which prayer was offered by Brother J. B. Bryan.

On motion of Rev. D. L. Chandler the Clerk read the proceedings of the Association during his and Rev. G. W. Cherry's absence for 11 o'clock services in relation to the General Association, after which, on motion, all ministers were made delegates.

The ministers' reports of their year's work were called for and read as follows:

I have had the pastoral care of three churches this year. Preached fifty-four sermons, received thirty-six members into the church, and joined together in holy matrimony five couples.

G. W. CHERRY.

I have preached about twenty-seven sermons, married ten couples, and conducted nine burial services.

J. I. HATCHER.

On motion of Rev. G. W. Cherry Article XIII of the Association's Decorum was abolished.

On motion of Rev. D. L. Chandler, Brother Blalock, of the Central Association, made a statement concerning his association, whereupon, on motion of Rev. D. L. Chandler, he was received as a corresponding delegate.

On motion of Rev. D. L. Chandler the Association returned to the business of appointing correspondents to sister associations.

Revs. J. B. Bryan and J. D. Sowell and Z. B. Hagins were selected as delegates to the Central Association.

On motion of Elder D. L. Chandler the heartfelt thanks of the Association were tendered to the Antioch church and community for the kind hospitality shown this body during its stay with them.

On motion the Clerk was paid \$10 for his services.

A motion was adopted that the Association adjourn to meet with the Union Springs church, Henry county, Ala., at 11 a. m. on Thursday before the second Sunday in October, A. D. 1902.

"On Jordan's stormy banks I stand" was sung while all took the parting hand, after which the Association humbled in Divine supplication with the Moderator.

Benediction by the Moderator.

REV. CALVIN DYKES, Moderator.

J. W. D. STEPHENS, Clerk.

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## CIRCULAR LETTER.

### BAPTISM.

Baptism is one of the three ordinances of the Freewill Baptist faith.

This modern type of baptism is of New Testament origin, dating from the preaching in the wilderness of John the Baptist. Being instituted and practiced by Christ, it is, therefore, an ordinance of the church under grace, following in the wake of circumcision of the Mosaic law.

We believe baptism is a requirement pre-requisite to church membership that God in His omnipotent wisdom saw fit to make. Its propriety is unquestionable. All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, correction and reproof. We are instructed

to believe, repent and be baptized "in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost," and by so doing we obey the commands of God, and by obeying His commandments we gain His good pleasure and obtain eternal life.

The uses of baptism are significant. Baptism does not cleanse and purify the soul from sin in the sense that a person uses soap to cleanse and purify clothes, but is typical of that cleansing, and typifies the death and resurrection of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

We are buried in baptism with Christ to rise and walk in newness in life, signifying to the world that we have crucified the lusts of the flesh, put away evil things, and have taken up the Cross of Christ to make our peace-calling and election sure.

We believe that the baptism of the Holy Spirit is absolutely essential to regeneration, and that the water baptism ought not to be omitted. For example: When a sinner is convinced that he is a sinner and believes with all his soul that Jesus Christ is His Saviour and gives himself to God, he has been taken possession of by the Holy Spirit, and is, we believe, in a savory state with God. Albeit it then becomes his imperative duty to receive the water-baptism in the name of the Trinity on the first opportunity.

We practice but one mode of baptism—immersion—which is the way that we understand the Scripture requirements.

The word "baptize," untranslated, means to immerse; therefore, immersion is forcibly sustained. Furthermore, the Scriptures are plain and demonstrative on this point of doctrine. Paul says: "Therefore, we are buried with him by baptism." (Rom. 6:4.) And John says: "And John was also baptized in Enon, near to Salim, because there was much water there" (John 3:23.) In acts: "And they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him" (Acts 8:38.) And Mary wrote: "Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and was baptized of John in Jordan." (Mark 1:9.)

Now, dear brethren, we are to accept the word of God as it is, regardless of man's opinion, not only on the subject of baptism, but in all of its teachings. Therefore, obey that divine injunction—search the Scriptures.

J. W. D. STEPHENS.



## OBITUARIES.

J. J. BAXTER.

We are pained to chronicle the death of our beloved brother, J. J. Baxter. He was an earnest and devoted member of Rocky Grove church. He had been a consistent church member for thirty-eight years. He leaves a wife, seven children and other relatives and friends to mourn his departure. Peace be to him. He was born June 5, 1832; died July 12, 1901; aged sixty-nine years, one month and seven days.

JAMES HATCHER.

Sacred to the memory of our beloved brother, James Hatcher. He was an earnest member and deacon of Hickory Grove church. He had been a church member for about twenty-one years. He leaves a wife, six children, relatives and friends to mourn his departure. Peace be to him. He was born October 16, 1826; died May 28, 1901; aged seventy-four years, seven months and twelve days.

## STATISTICS OF THE ASSOCIATION.

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

Year.	Moderator.	Clerk.	Church.	No.
1886.....	D. L. Chandler.....	Calvin Dykes.....	Howard Grove.....	449
1887.....	D. L. Chandler.....	Calvin Dykes.....	Beulah.....	577
1888.....	R. M. Gray.....	Calvin Dykes.....	Macedonia.....	403
1889.....	R. M. Gray.....	Calvin Dykes.....	Friendship.....	516
1890.....	R. M. Gray.....	Calvin Dykes.....	Lovewood.....	443
1891.....	R. M. Gray.....	Calvin Dykes.....	Prospect.....	339
1892.....	R. M. Gray.....	Calvin Dykes.....	Silver Run.....	444
1893.....	D. L. Chandler.....	J. D. Stephens.....	Hickory Grove.....	450
1894.....	R. M. Gray.....	J. D. Stephens.....	Spring Hill.....	422
1895.....	D. L. Chandler.....	J. D. Stephens.....	Pittman Creek.....	503
1896.....	Calvin Dykes.....	J. D. Stephens.....	Howard Grove.....	568
1897.....	D. L. Chandler.....	J. D. Stephens.....	New Hope.....	653
1898.....	D. L. Chandler.....	J. D. Stephens.....	Rocky Grove.....	633
1899.....	D. L. Chandler.....	J. D. Stephens.....	Prospect.....	671
1900.....	G. W. Cherry.....	J. D. Stephens.....	Freewill's Rest.....	803
1901.....	Calvin Dykes.....	J. W. D. Stephens.....	Antioch.....	916

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## LIST OF ORDAINED MINISTERS AND THEIR POSTOFFICES.

1. R. M. Gray, Geneva county, Ala.
2. D. L. Chandler, Pansey, Henry county, Ala.
3. Calvin Dykes, Ashford, Henry county, Ala.

4. ~~G. M. Hardy, Hartford, Geneva county, Ala.~~
5. ~~W. J. Mims, Webb, Henry county, Ala.~~
6. ~~J. E. Lock, Ardilla, Henry county, Ala.~~
7. ~~J. I. Hatcher, Bascom, Jackson county, Fla.~~
8. ~~G. L. Love, Howard, Henry county, Ala.~~
9. ~~W. S. Cook, Pansey, Henry county, Ala.~~
10. ~~J. D. Sowell, Eunola, Geneva county, Ala.~~
11. ~~J. B. Mills, <sup>Ardilla</sup>Dothan, Henry county, Ala.~~
12. ~~G. W. Cherry, Dothan, Henry county, Ala.~~
13. ~~W. W. Tremontana, Eunola, Geneva county, Ala.~~
14. ~~J. M. Murdock, Ashford, Henry county, Ala.~~
15. ~~C. M. Whittle, Eunola, Geneva county, Ala.~~
16. ~~J. <sup>A</sup>Robinson, Marianna, Jackson county, Fla.~~
17. ~~H. G. Wiggins, Dothan, Henry county, Ala.~~ *Not known.*
18. ~~J. D. Berry, Eunola, Geneva county, Ala.~~
19. ~~Elbert J. Davis, Pitts, Holmes county, Fla.~~ *Eunola, Geneva Co., Ala.*
20. ~~Jasper C. Thomas, Clio, Barbour county, Ala.~~
21. ~~J. E. Lock, Ardilla, Henry county, Ala.~~
22. ~~W. J. Murdock, Ashford, Henry county, Ala.~~
23. ~~R. L. Medlock, Marianna, Jackson county, Fla.~~
24. ~~R. L. Hunter, Columbia, Henry county, Ala.~~
25. ~~J. B. Bryan, Geneva, Geneva county, Ala.~~
26. ~~E. M. <sup>LICENTIATE</sup> *Wiggins, Henry Co., Ala.*~~
1. F. M. Swails, Hartford, Geneva county, Ala.
2. ~~S. Hunter, Columbia, Henry county, Ala.~~
3. ~~W. P. Benefield, Art, Dale county, Ala.~~
4. ~~A. C. Mercer, Gordon, Henry county, Ala.~~
5. ~~W. P. Benefield, Peach, Dale county, Ala.~~
6. ~~J. D. Pearce, Cottonwood, Henry county, Ala.~~
7. ~~J. W. Bruner, Asa, Geneva county, Ala.~~
8. ~~J. D. Alford, Asa, Geneva county, Ala.~~
9. ~~E. E. Evans, Asa, Geneva county, Ala.~~
10. ~~G. M. Hardie, Hartford, Geneva county, Ala.~~

## ORDER OF BUSINESS.

1. Organizing.
2. Calling for *correspondents from sister associations.*
3. ~~Calling for letters from the different churches.~~
4. ~~Electing a Moderator and Clerk.~~ *Calling for letters from the different churches.*
5. ~~Inviting visiting brethren to seats with us.~~
6. ~~Calling for petitionary letters.~~
7. ~~Appointing committees.~~
8. ~~Calling the roll and reading the Decorum.~~
9. ~~Calling for correspondents from sister associations.~~

9. Appointing correspondents to sister associations.
10. Calling for reports of committees.
11. Calling for Circular Letter.
12. Calling for Treasurer's report.
13. Calling for miscellaneous business.
14. Adjournment.

*Insert Associational Covenant here.*

### CONSTITUTION.

The Constitution of the Association is as follows:

ARTICLE I. This Association shall be composed of delegates annually sent from the churches based upon it.

ART. 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 number baptized, received by letter, restored, dismissed, excluded, died within the last Associational year, the membership, and ordained and licentiate ministers, the name of the church and pastor, the time of their monthly meeting, and the name of their nearest postoffice.

ART. III. Any church wishing to become a member of this body must bring a letter of dismissal from some other orderly association, or, if 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.

ART. 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.

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

ART. 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 he shall not be allowed to vote, except in case of a tie, on any matter.

ART. VII. It shall be the duty of the Clerk to record the proceedings of the body when in session, and to superintend the publication of the same, and to do all other



writing pertaining to the business of the Association.

ART. VIII. The Clerk shall also preserve a file of the minutes of the Association, which he shall deliver to his successor when he vacates the office.

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

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

### DECORUM OF THE ASSOCIATION.

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

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

ART 3. Every motion made and seconded shall come under the notice of the Association, unless withdrawn.

ART. 4. The Association shall be opened and closed with prayer.

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

ART. 6. Only one person shall be allowed to speak at the same time, and such speaker shall address the Moderator, and shall not be interrupted while speaking, except by the Moderator.

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

ART. 8. The Moderator shall not interrupt a speaker while speaking, unless he departs from the subject under debate.



ART 9. All officers shall be elected by ballot except the Executive Committee, which shall be appointed.

ART. 10. If newly constituted or other churches desire to be admitted into this union, they must petition by delegates and letter, and if upon examination found to be orthodox and orderly they shall be received into the Association, and such reception shall be manifested by giving the right hand of fellowship.

ART. 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 rank but not re-ordained.

ART. 12. We, therefore, resolve that no church nor minister shall be received into this Association that refuses to comply with the ordinance which is given us in the Gospel. This Decorum may be altered or amended as the Association may see proper

### CHURCH DECORUM.

1. A 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 indefinite 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 a church.

3. The pastor shall be the Moderator of a church; but when he 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 each church, whose duty it shall be to superintend the collections for and disbursements of all contributions made by such 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 learn 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 perform all the recording and other writing pertaining to the business of a church; and to preserve a file of the minutes of this Association.

7. When a new clerk is appointed all the books, minutes, etc., belonging to the clerk shall be immediately deliv-

ered to him by his predecessor.

8. When a church deems it necessary a committee of not less than three male members, well acquainted with the business, shall be appointed, whose duty it shall be to give advice to brethren who apply to them relative to cases of dealing, etc., with the church.

9. Each church shall hold a two days' monthly meeting, embracing Saturday and the Lord's day following, the first of which shall be the regular time of conference.

10. 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 special manner by giving plain and pointed lessons on doctrine, discipline and the rules of holy living.

11. Any male member who shall fail to attend three successive conferences, and any member whosoever that may be generally remiss in attending the meetings of a church according to the Covenant (Article 10), shall be cited to appear in conference and answer for his neglect; but a church may exempt members from this rule if necessary.

12. Conferences, after prayer or divine services, shall be opened and conducted as follows: 1. Inviting visiting brethren to seats. 2. Opening the door of the church for the reception of members. 3. Calling for the reading of the minutes of the last conference. 4. Calling for absentees. 5. For acknowledgments. 6. For references or deferred business. 7. For new matters of dealing which are to come before the body. 8. For miscellaneous business.

13. Visiting brethren, and also helps called in from sister churches, shall be allowed to speak and make or second motions, but shall not be allowed to vote.

14. Any orderly member of the Baptist church which does not hold this church in fellowship may be received into a 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 by the member who makes them such member shall be liable to be taken under dealing by the church.

16. When the Moderator calls for absentees the clerk shall inform the church what members have been absent for three successive conferences, and the Moderator shall appoint some brother or brethren to see 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 the church is introduced, he shall not be examined until this question has been put to the church: "Will you hear the testimony of this witness?"

19. The evidence in every case of dealing and acknowledgment shall be minuted in the church book.

20. Members dismissed from the 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 misconduct.

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 on any question unless it has been moved and seconded, and upon all important questions must be taken by rising to the feet.

23. No other motion shall be entertained while a question with a mover 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 or whisper, without being subject to a call 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 question without permission from the Moderator, nor shall the remarks of any one be unreasonably long.

28. When the Moderator speaks in debate he must nominate some one to act in his stead as Moderator.

29. No one shall be interrupted while speaking, unless it be necessary to call the speaker 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, the expenses of which 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 may see proper.

33. Public fasting, humiliation and prayer shall be observed on proper occasions.



34 This 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.

1. 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.—Tim. 1:17; Isaiah 45:22; St. John 17:3; St. John 1:2-3.

2. THE HOLY SCRIPTURES.—We believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments were given by the inspiration of God, and are binding on all as our infallible rule of faith and practice.—II Tim. 3:16; Romans 15:4 and 4:23-44; Peter 1:21.

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

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 14:25, 15:26 and 16:7-15, inclusive.

5. 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.—Romans 1:16; Phil. 2:12; Heb. 2:3.

6. 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 who 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. 3:6, 1:26, 5:1 and 9:6; Cor. 11:7; Rom. 3:28; Mark 16:16; Acts 10:43.

7. THE ATONEMENT.—We believe that Christ in His great compassion offered Himself as a 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.—I Cor. 1:7; Eph. 5:2; Heb. 2:9-26; Rom. 5:15; Rev. 22:17.

8. OF ELECTION.—We believe that God has not fixed the future state of man by any unconstitutional degree delivered from the beginning to save all who comply with the terms of salvation.—John 8:31; Luke 11:28; Acts 10:35; Deut. 11:26-27-28.

9. ON PERSEVERANCE.—We believe that none will be finally saved but those who through grace persevere in holiness to the end.—John 8:31; Tim. 1:19; II Peter 2:21-22.

10. GOSPEL ORDINANCES.—We believe that baptism or the burial of believers in 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 believers. Reference for baptism: John 3:5; Romans 6:4. Reference for the Lord's Supper: Matt. 26:26-27-28. Reference for washing the saints' feet: John 13:5-17, inclusive.

11. THE LORD'S SUPPER.—We believe that the Lord's Supper was instituted by our Saviour 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. 6:4; Matt. 7:10; Romans 4:3-4.

12. OF THE RESURRECTION.—We believe in the resurrection of the dead and a general judgment; and when the resurrection takes place the soul and body will reunite and form an immortal being; that the righteous will be received into everlasting happiness, and the wicked will be driven into everlasting darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.—John 5:28-29; Acts 24:15; Isaiah 17; Heb. 9:27.

*Enoch*



# STATISTICS OF THE STATE LINE FREEWILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION FOR 1901.

CHURCHES AND COUNTIES.	NAMES OF DELEGATES.	PASTORS.	CLERKS AND THEIR POSTOFFICES.	Received by Baptism.	Received on Confession.	Received by Letter.	Restored.	Dismissed by Letter.	Excluded.	Died.	Days of Meeting.	Number of Members.	Subscribed for Minutes.	Subscribed for Associational purposes.	Value of Church.	Value of Church Property.
Prospect, Henry Co., Ala.....	E. O. Searcy, W. W. Clark, J. W. Conner.....	G. W. Cherry.	W. W. Clark, Dothan, Ala.....	11	2	8	5	4	2	1	3	128	\$ 1 50	\$ 1 50	\$ 300	\$ 50
Hickory Grove, Jackson Co., Fla.	J. W. D. Stephens, J. M. Robinson, H. G. McCullough.....	D. L. Chandler.	Jeff D. Stephens, Bascom, Fla.....	14	2	...	...	...	3	1	4	86	1 50	1 50	500	50
New Home, Henry Co., Ala.....	John Mercer, J. B. Whitaker.....	No Pastor.	A. Z. Culbreth, Godfrey, Ala.....	8	...	6	...	...	...	...	1	28	1 00	50	...	...
Howard's Grove, Henry Co., Ala.	J. F. Capps, Ben Williams.....	Calvin Dykes.	J. L. Sellers, Cottonwood, Ala.....	8	4	1	4	1	4	1	4	154	2 50	1 50	200	50
Hew Harmony, Henry Co., Ala.	A. J. Granger, J. J. Granger.....	G. L. Love.	A. J. Granger, Granger, Ala.....	3	...	2	...	...	...	...	2	34	1 00	50	75	75
Pilcher Pond, Jackson Co., Fla.	Mason Chason, J. D. Medlock.....	J. A. Robinson.	Mason Chason, Marianna, Fla.....	4	3	1	...	1	...	...	4	46	1 60	1 00	...	...
Antioch, Holmes Co., Fla.....	John Culver, T. Y. Woodward.....	J. D. Sowell.	A. M. Ganey, Pitts, Fla.....	3	4	...	...	...	...	...	4	26	1 00	50	...	...
Union Springs, Henry Co., Ala.	W. H. Jenkins, D. V. Olive.....	W. J. Murdock.	D. V. Olive, Columbia, Ala.....	15	3	4	2	...	6	...	2	56	1 50	50	...	...
Ardilla, Henry Co., Ala.....	J. W. Hall, J. F. Filligim, Amos Mixon.....	G. L. Love.	C. R. Cobb, Ardilla, Ala.....	...	1	1	1	1	...	...	1	26	1 00	50	...	...
New Hope, Dale Co., Ala.....	A. M. Kirkland.....	No Pastor.	J. T. Ward, Art, Ala.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	25	75	25	...	...
Friendship, Geneva Co., Ala.....	J. D. Marlo, J. B. Fershee.....	N. Whittle.	John Hatcher, Heartford, Ala.....	2	3	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	75	80	...	...
Springfield, Henry Co., Ala.....	J. P. Williams, J. A. Givens.....	H. G. Wiggins.	M. Nall, Ashford, Ala.....	...	2	6	...	...	...	...	4	35	1 00	1 00	...	...
Pittman Creek, Holmes Co., Fla.	J. J. Hatcher, G. R. Faulk.....	C. M. Whittle.	W. J. McDaniel, Izagora, Fla.....	3	...	2	...	1	...	...	...	41	75	90	...	...
Pleasant Ridge, Geneva Co., Ala.	C. W. Davis, W. D. Ward.....	J. B. Bryan.	J. D. Alford, Asa, Ala.....	23	10	3	2	2	2	...	4	38	1 00	1 00	...	...
New Harmony, Geneva Co., Ala.	David Nixon, W. B. Smothers, L. V. Elmore, Z. B. Hagins.....	...	Wm. Pert, Eunola, Ala.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	62	1 50	1 00	...	...
Rocky Grove, Jackson Co., Fla.	R. T. Baxter, M. J. Mercer.....	W. J. Murdock.	M. J. Mercer, Greenwood, Fla.....	5	4	1	1	...	...	2	3	58	1 00	50	125	75
Freewill's Rest, Jackson Co., Fla.	H. G. Green, L. C. Messer.....	J. A. Robinson.	H. G. Green, Bascom, Fla.....	...	...	...	...	...	7	...	3	29	75	75	100	5
Turner Spring.....	G. W. Arnold, H. L. Gomilian, R. P. Powell, J. R. Calvin.....	J. D. Sowell.	J. R. Calvin, Bakers, Fla.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	44	55	50	...	...
Total.....	.....	.....	.....	99	38	33	17	8	26	5	...	916	\$20 65	\$14 70	\$1300	0835