MINUTES

Seventeenth Annual Session

OF THE

STATE LINE

Free Will Baptist Association,

CONVENED WITH THE CHURCH AT

UNION SPRINGS, HENRY COUNTY, ALA.,

OCTOBER 9th and 10th, 1902.

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 session of this Association will convene with Hickory Grove Church, Jackson County, Florida, at 11 o'clock, A. M. on Thursday before the second Sunday in October, A. D., 1903, Located four miles north of Bascom, Fla.

AYDEN, N. C.
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and the appeared the recognition and the residence of the many property.

PROCEEDINGS.

Pursuant to adjournment the Seventeenth Annual Session of the State Line Free Will Baptist Association convened with Union Springs church, Henry county,

Ala., on Thursday at 11 o'clock, A. M., before the 2nd

Sunday in October, A. D. 1902.

The introductory services were conducted by Rev. D. L. Chandler from Romans 8: 1-26, followed by Rev. G. W. Cherry. The Association then adjourned for one hour and thirty minutes for refreshments.

THURSDAY—AFTERNOON SESSION.

The Association reassembled at the appointed time, and joined in singing, "How sweet the name of Jesus sounds," after which the body humbled in prayer with the Moderator.

The Association was called to order by the Moderator, and business dispatched in the following order, viz.

The Moderator appointed a committee on divine services composed of the following named brethren: J. W. Conner, W. H. Jenkins, R. Williams and F. J. Whitaker.

Letters from the various churches were called for, handed in and read by Bros. Jefferson D. Stephens and H. Spurgeon Cherry and their state minuted.

The churches and delegates were enrolled as follows:

- 1. Springfield—A. L. Brown, J. A. Givens, E. Rabon and M. Nall.
- 2. Prospect—J. W. Conner, J. B. Prevatte, W. W. Clark and H. Spurgeon Cherry.
- 3. Howard Grove—J. F. Capps, J. B. Williams, T. D. Adams, Joseph Whitaker, J. F. Johnson, E. R. Williams, W. L. Lee, W. Ray, G. Smith, O. B. Johnson and A. Love.
- 4. New Home—L. C. Culbreth, R. L. Culbreth and E. P. McNeal.
 - 5. Hickory Grove—J. W. Rodgers, Jefferson D. Steph-

- ens, J. M. Robinson, T. J. Simes, Willie Hatcher and Ogden Ford.
- 6. New Harmony—A. J. Granger, J. D. Calloway and J. J. Granger.
 - 7. Friendship-Frank Hatcher and J. H. Forshee.
 - 8. New Pilgrim-W. G. Odorn and J. F. Thomas.
 - 9. Ardilla-C. R. Cobb and J. F. Fillimgim.
 - 10. Turner Springs-W. L. Rhodes.
 - 11. New Hope-A. M. Kirkland and Moses Sketo.
- 12. Freewill's Rest—H. G. Green, W. Whiddon and A. Tison.
 - 13. Pilchia Pond-
- 14. Union Springs—F. J. Whitaker, D. V. Olive, J. T. Eubanks and W. H. Jenkins.
 - 15. Rocky Grove-M. J. Mercer and W. T. Evans.
 - 16. Antioch-W. C. Whitehurst.
 - 17. Pleasant Grove-T. R. Conner.
- 18. Pleasant Home—A. J. Brown, David Mixon and Z. B. Hagins.
 - 19. Sweet Home-T. Samson and J. D. Harper.
 - 20. Pleasant Ridge-
 - 21. Pittman Creek—

On motion of G. W. Cherry, we erase the names of absent delegates and fill their vacancies with any members present from their respective churches.

On motion of J. W. Conner, the letters from the various churches were received.

On motion of D. L. Chandler, we anticipate the regular order of business and call and revise the roll.

Bro. J. T. Eubanks moved to proceed with the election of Moderator and Clerk.

The Moderator appointed brethren Jefferson D. Stephens and H. Spurgeon Cherry to hold the ballots.

The Association then permanently organized by reelecting Rev. Calvin Dykes as Moderator and J. W. D. Stephens as Clerk. After complimenting the body the Moderator invited visiting brethren to seats with us.

Call for petitionary letters. Received three, viz: Pleasant Grove, Pleasant Home and Sweet Home.

On motion, the letters were read, received, and their delegates given the right hand of fellowship by the Association.

On motion, Bro. J. W. Bruner was granted the privilege of representing Pleasant Ridge church by proxy.

On motion, the statement was received.

The various committees were then appointed as follows:

- 1. On Suggestions—Brethren D. L. Chandler, H. G. Green, Jefferson D. Stephens and H. Spurgeon Cherry.
- 2. On Sabbath Schools—Brethren G. L. Love, J. B. Prevatte and J. F. Capps.
 - 3. On Temperance—Bro. G. W. Cherry.
- 4. On Finance—Brethren J. W. Rodgers, Geo. Smith and W. C. Whitehurst.
- 5. On Nominations—Brethren T. R. Conner, W. W. Clark, J. M. Robinson and J. D. Harper.
- 6. On Documents—Brethren T. J. Simes, Wm. Ray, T. R. Conner and Z. B. Hagins.
- 7. On Obituaries—Brethren F. Hatcher, A. M. Kirkland and M. J. Mercer.
- 8. On Education—Brethren W. J. Mims, R. L. Culbreth and J. D. Calloway.
- 9. On Missions—Brethren C. M. Whittle, O. B. Johnson, C. R. Cobb, W. L. Rhodes and J. F. Thomas.

On motion of D. L. Chandler, that the Moderator appoint a committee on Character of Ministers.

On motion of Jefferson D. Stephens, the committee comprise seven brethren.

Bro. G. W. Cherry moved that any brother, knowing anything concerning a minister that should claim the attention of the Association, report it to the committee.

The Moderator appointed the committee as follows:

On Character of Ministers—Brethren J. W. Conner, J. B. Williams, A. Tison, J. T. Eubanks, W. G. Odom, W.

L. Rhodes, J. F. Fillimgim.

On motion of Rev. D. L. Chandler, the Association adjourned until 8 o'clock Friday morning. After which the body humbled in divine supplication with Rev. G. W. Cherry.

FRIDAY—Morning Session.

The Association met pursuant to adjournment and joined with the Moderator in singing, "How firm a foundation," after which Rev. J. T. Knight invoked divide presence. Renewed call for petitionary letters. None received.

Bro. J. W. Conner moved to call the roll and read the

decorum, which the clerk proceeded to do.

On motion, W. C. Whitehurst, of Antioch church, was excused.

On motion, the committee appointed at the last session to meet with the Salem Association, report. It's chairman, Rev. G. L. Chandler moved that Rev. J. T. Knight, of the Salem Association, speak for himself concerning the existing differences between the two Associations and between himself and the State Line Association. Upon which J. T. Knight made acknowledgements for all wrong done the State Line Association. by himself or his Association.

On motion of Jefferson D. Stephens, his acknowledge-

ments were received.

The meruta of the income Called for correspondents from sister associations. Three were found corresponding, viz:

Salem Association-Brethren J. T. Knight, J. C. Eld-

ridge, J. A. Skinner and J. W. Davis.

Southeastern Association—John Parker.

Midway Association—S. Ely and W. A. McDonald.

Moves were made and duly seconded for their reception. After which they were given the right hand of fellowship by the body. Bro. W. A. McDonald made a statement giving condition and aim of his Association.

On motion of J. D. Stephens, 'we appoint' correspon-

dents to sister Associations.

The following brethren either volunteered or were appointed delegates:

To Southeastern—G. W. Cherry, M. Nall and J. T. Eubanks.

To Salem—F. M. Swails, C. Dykes, Rufus Williams, John Robinson, J. F. Capps and T. J. Simes.

To Martin—W. S. Cook and W. H. Jenkins.

To Midway—W. J. Mims, H. Spurgeon Cherry and F. J. Whitaker.

To Central—J. H. Forshee, Z. B. Hagins and C. M. Whittle.

On motion of J.D. Stephens, a committee of five was appointed to wait on Bro. W. H. Rheano, of the Liberty Association, on the charge of being an expelled member from this Association, and if he makes satisfactory amends to them, the committee is then to present themselves as corresponding delegates from this Association and require him to meet our next session, as chairman of their delegation, to make amends to this Association for the wrong that he has done our body.

The committee was appointed by the Moderator as follows: Brethren J. D. Stephens, J. W. Conner, Rufus Williams, D. L. Chandler and W. J. Murdock.

On motion, we corresponded with Chattahoochee Association by letter.

COMMITTEE ON DIVINE SERVICES.

The report of the committee on Divine Services was as follows:

We your committee on Divine Services, beg lief to make the following report, towit: Thursday at 3: 30, P. M., Rev. J. C. Eldridge to preach, followed by Rev. G. L. Love; Friday at 11 A. M., J. T. Knight preach. Called for report of committee on suggestions.

COMMITTEE ON SUGGESTIONS.

We your committee on Suggestions beg lief to submit the following report, towit: Whereas, we believe the drink habit is doing more harm to the advancement of the cause of Christ than any other one cause, and whereas some of our preachers drink to drunkness.

1st, Therefore be it resolved, That when any preacher shall drink to drunkness he shall be silenced from preaching. And any church failing to comply with this resolution shall be severed from the association until it complys with the foregoing article.

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2nd. Any deacon who shall drink to drunkness shall be dismissed from his office, and any church failing to comply with this resolution shall be out of order and subject to dealing by the Association.

3rd. 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 Free

Will Baptist cause.

4th. 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.

5th. Expunged.

6th. We further suggest that we call for correspondents from sister Associations immediately after organization and insert it in the regular order of business.

7th. We suggest that our people build better houses

for worship and secure pertect title before building.

D. L. CHANDLER, Chairman.

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

COMMITTEE ON DOCUMENTS.

We your committee on Documents, beg lief to submit

the following report, towit:

The Association is asked to let the literature remain as it is. It is also recommended that our Clerk have nothing published that has been tabled or lost in the Association. It is also recommended that the Associational Covenant be printed in the minutes of this session.

T. J. Simes, Chairman.

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

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION.

Your committee on Education beg lief to submit the

following report, towit:

Any movement is heartily indorsed for the betterment and improvement of our people, intellectually as well as spiritually. Educated talent is wanted and needed 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. Public schools are 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.

W. J. Mims Chairman.

On motion of Jefferson D. Stephens, the report was received and adopted and the committee discharged.

On motion of J. D. Stephens; Ogden Ford was seated as a delegate from Hickory Grove church.

COMMITTEE ON SABBATH SCHOOLS.

We, your committee on Sabbath Schools, beg leave to make the following report: We find that there has been only four Sabbath Schools for the past year. We recommend that each delegate and minister composing this body insist upon their church to urge the good of Sabbath Schools. Let us endorse Sabbath Schools as we believe them to be good for the mind as well as for the soul.

G. L. Love, Chairman.

On motion, the report was received and adopted with the amendment of adding Pleasant Grove school, and the committee discharged.

After humbling in prayer with Bro. S. Ely, the body was dismissed one hour and 20 minutes for refreshments.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON SESSION.

The Association reassembled pursuant to adjournment and was called to order by the moderator, joining in singing "Grace 'tis a charming sound," after which prayer was offered by Bro. D. L. Chandler.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE.

We, your committee on finance beg leave to make the following report: Received for minutes, \$20.75, Received for associational purposes, 14.50. New Harmony and Turner Springs churches failed to pay in anything for minute or associational purposes. Respectfully submitted,

J. W. Rodgers, Chairman.

On motion of Bro. J. M. Robinson, the report was received and adopted and the committee discharged.

After the adoption of the above report New Harmony church paid, for minutes, \$1.00; for associational purposes, 50c; making a total of \$36.75.

On motion of Bro. J. W. Conner, Bro. C. M. Whittle

represented Pittman Creek church by proxy.

COMMITTEE ON OBITUARIES.

Your committee on Obituaries beg lief to make the following report, towit:

Eleven deaths were found since the last session and

we ask that their obituaries appear in our minutes.

F. M. HATCHER, Chairman. Report was received and committee discharged.

COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS.

Committee on Nominations submit the following: Hickory Grove church, Jackson county, Fla., was nominated for the next session or the Association.

Bro. G. M. Hardy was nominated to preach the introductory sermon and Bro. C. M. Whittle to close.

Bro. D. L. Chandler was nominated to write the circular letter.

T. R. Conner, Chairman.

On motion, the report was received and adopted and the committee discharged, but the brethren nominated to direct the Introductory services withdrew from our Association, and the Executive committee amended that clause as follows:

Bro. W. J. Mims to preach the introductory sermon and Bro. J. W. Murdock to close.

COMMITTEE ON MISSIONS.

Committee on Missions submit the following:

Three new churches have been organized during this Associational year.

The mission cause is recommended to be more ardently supported in the future than it has been in the past.

C. M. WHITTLE, Chairman. It was received, adopted and committee discharged.

COMMITTEE ON CHARACTER OF MINISTERS.

Your committee on Character of Ministers beg lief to submit the following report, towit:

Rev. W. W. Tremontana belongs to the Central Association. Rev. J. C. Thomas belongs to the Liberty

Association. Rev. J. D. Alford has joined the Missionary church. Revs. J. B. Bryan, E. E. Evans and A. C. Mercer have been expelled. And we recommend that their names be dropped from our list of Ministers. The rest is found in order. J. W. Conner, Ch'm.

Report was received and committee discharged.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

Received for minutes,	\$20 65,
Received for Associational purposes,	14 70,
Total,	35 35.
Paid for publication of minutes,	28 25,
Paid for postage on minutes,	1 50,
Paid the Clerk for services rendered,	10 00,
Total,	34 75.
Amount at present in the hands of Treas.,	23 95.
G. L. Love, Treas	urer.

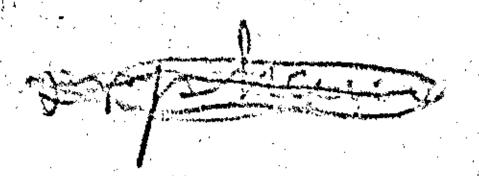
On motion of J. T. Eubanks, the report was received.

The circular letter was then called for, but its writer, Rev. Calvin Dykes, did not have it present, though he gave an outline of his letter. And on motion of Jefferson D. Stephens it was received and adopted and ordered to be published.

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 the day. It ruins the boys, makes drunken fathers and destroys the usefulness of himself and family. Brethren, let us ask ourselves the question, What good are the saloons and dispensaries? Do they in any way build up business or purify society, or are they any benefit to the physical, mental, social, or spiritual wants of men? Do, they help the poor to build homes or the rich to enjoy their mansions? Do they put clothes on the back of the poor man's wife and children, or food into their mouths? Do they enter into the homes and make the husband and wife love each other or cause them to cherish their children? Do they help to build up noble character in our country? Do they make them honest and upright men? Are they the best places to build up a family? Are they good



places to educate young citizens? Do they teach men

to be moral? I answer, no.

Solomon says strong drink is raging and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise. Woe is pronounced on a man who puts the bottle to his neighbor's lips to make him drunk. REV. G. W. CHERRY, Ch'm.

On motion of Bro. J. T. Eubanks, the report was received and adopted and the committee discharged.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS.

On motion, an appointment for a General Association, composed of a delegation from this and sister associations, was made, the General Association to convene with Howard's Grove church, Henry county, Ala., on Friday at 11 o'clock, a. m. before the fourth Sunday in June, A. D., 1903, and on motion, the moderator appointed a delegation of five, composed of the following named brethren: Jefferson D. Stephens, Revs. G. W. Cherry, D. L. Chandler, J. W. Bruner and J. W. Rodgers.

New Harmony church of Geneva Co., Ala., has desolved, and on motion of Rev. C. M. Whittle, its name

was dropped from our minutes.

On motion of Bro. J. M. Robinson, the following named churches at their request were granted letters of dismissal from this Association, for the purpose of organizing a new association: Pittman Creek, Pleasant Home, Friendship, Turner Springs, Antioch, Pleasant Ridge, Sweet Home, Pleasant Grove.

Bro. J. M. Robinson moved that this Association appoint a Presbytery to meet and organize their Association on Friday at 11 o'clock, A. M., before the fifth Sunday in November, A. D. 1902, at Pleasant Grove,

Chanclor, Geneva county, Ala.

The following brethren compose the Presbytery:

Revs. D. L. Chandler, G. W. Cherry and Calvin Dykes. Alternates: Revs. G. L. Love and J. W. D. Stephens.

On motion of Rev. D. L. Chandler, the clerk was paid

\$10.00 for his services.

On motion, we tender our heartfelt thanks to Union. Springs church and community for their kind hospitality shown towards us during our stay in their midst in the capacity of an Association.

On motion, a collection was made for the benefit of

Bros. Earnest, A. Tison, Franklin McNeel and sisters Sally McNeel and Carrie Barnes. The collection amounted to \$8.23 and was for equal division.

A collection of \$1.10 was made to defray the expenses of Revs. S. Ely and W. A. McDonald of the Midway

Association.

On motion of Bro. Jefferson D. Stephens, the Association adjourned to meet with Hickory Grove church, Jackson county, Fla., at 11 o'clock, A. M., on Thursday before the second Sunday in October, A. D. 1903. Benediction by the Moderator.

REV. CALVIN DYKES, Moderator.

J. W. D. STEPHENS, Clerk.

CIRCULAR LETTER.

To the brethren composing the State Line Free Will

Baptist Association, Sept. 26th, 1902:

Dear Brethren, according to previous appointment, I will try to write a short letter. There are many subjects that present themselves to me but I will write from Apostacy as there are many people in our land and country who almost scorn the idea of a man that has been converted to Apostatize and be finally lost, and if I had to consult my own personal 'feelings without the light of the Bible, I would be far from entertaining the idea; but with the light of the Gospel I am bound to surrender my thoughts and give the Gospel the precident. Why? Because it teaches, "To let God be true but every man a liar." Rom. 3:4. Then our thoughts and our belief is like a sounding brass and a tinkling cymbal. If it is not according to the teachings of the Gospel then we are bound to say that the Gospel is the power of God unto Salvation to every one that believes to the Jews first and also to the Greeks. Then brethren, let us arm ourselves with that faith and confidence to believe the Gospel as it is. When we were without hope and without God in the world, God sent a dear loving Savior to our speedy relief who tasted death for all men that all men might be saved through Sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth. Then we believe that our blessed Savior did nothing through pride or vainglory but all that he did was for the glory of the Father and the salvation of man.

Then it was requisite that He called twelve men to be witnesses of his Divine Power on the earth and to be his Disciples and Apostles. Now the names of the Apostles are these: The first Simon who is called Peter and Andrew his brother, James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, Phillip and Bartholomew, Thomas and Matthew the Publican, James the son of Alpheus, and Lebbaus, whose surname is Thaddeus, Simon the Canaanite and Judas Iscarot, who also betrayed Him. The above named twelve were his own selection and he called them for a grand and noble purpose, and that was to preach. Preach what, the Gospel? No, why not the Gospel? Because the Gospel had not been set up. They were only to preach repentance, saying the kingdom of heaven was at hand. Before these Apostles could preach, He ordained them and gave them a supernatural power; that they might heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead; as freely as ye have received, freely give. Now for the question to all unbiased Christians. Do we believe that our dear loving Savior would have ordained those twelve men and given them their qualifications and sent them out to preach repentance and they had not repented themselves, and probably guilty of some sin of the deepest dye? We answer emphatically, No. Why? Because the Savior says, "A house divided against itself can not stand." What shall we say then? That just as soon as those men were ordained and received those gifts of healing they were just as good men as Christ wanted them to be, or he would not have sent them out to preach. No doubt he commanded them to grow in grace and the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. It has been preached from our sacred desks that the twelve Apostles were never converted until the day of Pentecost. This I will not entertain for this reason; the Savior tells the Apostles to remain in Jerusalem until they were endued with power from on high, 'And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were of one accord in one place and suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a mighty rushing wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting; and cloven tongues sat upon them and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost." This we will give full sanction,

Why? Because when our Savior was with them they needed not the Holy Ghost. Why? Because the Word teaches that, "In Christ dwells all of the fullness of the godhead bodily." Then the Holy Ghost came to reprove the world of sin, of righteousness and of a judgment. We find that all nations of the earth were represented at Jerusalem and some were almost beside themselves and said, "What meaneth this?" And to sum up the whole matter in a nut shell, "That Christ had broken down the middle wall of partition between the Jew and the Gentiles and placed us all in a favorable condition. Then they were fully qualified to preach. The Gospel had been set up by the death burial and resurrection of our blessed Savior. "Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature, he that believes and is baptized shall be saved; he that believeth not shall be damned." Was Judas, one to receive this final commission? No. Why? Because the Word says, "By transgression Judas fell that he might go to his own place." Also the Savior said to the Father, "All those that thou hast given me I have kept, and none of them is lost except the son of perdition that the Scriptures might be fulfilled." And many infallible proofs we could set forth; but we are satisfied that a plenty has been written to satisfy any fairminded man. May the Lord bless and save us all.

CALVIN DYKES, M. G.

OBITUARIES.

R. L. MEDLOCK.

We are pained to chronicle the death of our beloved brother, R. L. Medlock. He was an earnest and devoted member of Pilchia Pond church. He had been a consistent member of the church for thirty-six years, and a minister of the Gospel. He leaves a wife and five children to mourn his departure. Peace be to him. He was born March 1st, 1840; died June 2nd, 1902; age sixty-two years, three months and one day.

E. J. NIX.

We are pained to chronicle the death of our beloved sister, E. J. Nix. She was an earnest and devoted member of Pilchia Pond church. She had been a consistent

church member for about forty years. She leaves four children to mourn her departure. Peace be to her. She was born March 14th, 1837; died March 16th, 1902; age sixty-five years and two days.

ELIZABETH SUMERLIN.

We are pained to chronicle the death of our beloved sister, Elizabeth Sumerlin. She was an earnest and devoted member of Pilchia Pond church. She leaves four children to mourn her departure. Peace be to her. She was born November 13th, 1821; died November 19th, 1901; aged eighty years and six days.

SALLY STANDLAND.

Sacred to the memory of our beloved sister, Sally Standland. She was an earnest and devoted member of Hickory Grove church. She had been a consistent church member for about sixteen years. She lived and died a member of the church, with which she first united, never having an aught brought against her. She leaves a devoted husband, relatives and friends to mourn her departure. Peace be to her. She was born December 18th, 1871; died May 6th, 1902; aged thirty years, four months and eighteen days.

Statistics of the Association.

The State Line Free Will Baptist Association was organized at Howard Grove church, Nov. 20th, 1886.

	•	and the second second second second			
	YEAR.	Moderator.	CLERK.	CHURCH.	No.
	1886	.D. L. Chandler	Calvin Dykes	Howard Grove	449
		.D. L. Chandler	Calvin Dykes	.Beulah	577
	1888	.R. M. Gray	Calvin Dykes	Maccedonia	403
٠.		R. M. Gray	Calvin Dykes	Friendsbip	516
	1890	.R. M. Gray	Calvin Dykes	Lovewood	443
	1891	.R. M. Gray	Calvin Dykes	Prospect	339
		.R. M. Gray		Silver Run	
:	1893	.D. L. Chandler	J. D. Stephens	Hickory Grove	450
	1894	.R. M. Gray	J. D. Stephens	Spring Hill	
	1895	.D. L. Chandler	J. D. Stephens	Pittman Creek	503
	1896	.Calvin Dykes		Howard Grove	568
1	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	s.Antioch	916
			J. W. D. Stephens		949
	1903.	9. D. Stepher	s. J.W. D. Stephen	A. Hickory H.	92
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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. 2-3. 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. Sock, Ardilla, Henry county Ala. 4 S. J. I. Hatcher, Bascom, Jackson county, Fla. 6 S. G. L. Love, Howard, Henry county, Ala. 6 9 W.S. Cook Pansey, Henry county, Ala. 10. J. D. Sowell, Eunola, Geneva-county, Ala. N. J. B. Mills, Ardilla, Henry county, Ala. 8 12. G. W. Cherry, Dothan, Henry county, Ala. 9 18. J. M. Murdock, Ashford, Henry county, Ala. 10 14. C. M. Whittle, Eunola, Geneva county, Ala. // 15. J. A. Robinson, Marianna, Jackson county, Fla. /2 16. H. G. Wiggins, Not known. Wright, Holmes county, oils. 17: J. D. Berry, Eunola, Scheva county, Ala. 18. Elbert J. Davis, Eunola, Geneva county. Ala. 13 19. J. E. Lock, Ardilla, Henry county, Ala. 14 20. W. J. Murdock, Ashford, Henry county, Ala. 21. R. L. Medlock, Marianna, Jackson county, Fla. 22. R. L. Hunter, Columbia, Henry county, Ala., 16 28. A. M. Nowell, Gordon, Henry county, Ala. LICENTIATE. 1-F.M. Swails, Hartford, Geneva county, Ala. 2. I. S. Hunter, Columbia, Henry county, Ala. 8. W.P. Benefield, Peach, Dale edunty, Ala. 2 4. J. D. Peakce, Cottonwood, Henry county, Ala. 5. J. W. Bruner, Asa, Geneva county, Ala. Order of Business. 1. Organizing. 2. Calling for correspondents from Associations. 2 3. Calling for letters from the different churches. Electing Moderator and Clerk. 4 5. Inviting visiting brethren to seats with us. J- & Calling for petitionary letters. 6 A Appointing committees. 7. S. Calling the roll and reading the Decorum. 9.9. Appointing correspondents to sister associations. 10. Calling for reports of committees. 11. Calling for Circular Letter. from sister associations.

- 12. Calling for Treasurer's report.
- 13. Calling for miscellaneous business.
- 14. Adjournment.

Associational Covenant.

Having been, as we trust, brought together to or-, ganize an Association, by Divine Grace, to embrace our Lord Jesus Christ, to give ourselves wholly up to Him, we joyfully and solemnly covenant each other to walk together in Him, with all humility and brotherly love; to watch over each other for good and stir up each other to love and good works; not forsaking the frequent assembling of ourselves together with our neighbors to worship God according to 'His revealed will as occassion may require, to warn, rebuke and admonish each other according to the gospel, that the growth of the whole body in Christ and holiness in knowledge may be thereby pomoted, to the end we may stand complete in all the will of God. For the same/purpose we will uphold the public worship of God and the ordinances of His house, and hold constant communion with each other therein; we will cheerfully contribute of our property for the maintainance of a faithful ministry of the gospel among us, and for the extension of the Blessed Redeemer's kingdom universally. We will not omit family and closet religion at home, nor allow ourselves in the too common neglect of the great and important duty of religiously training our children for the service of God and the enjoyment of Heaven. We will also sympathize with each other in seasons of temptations and afflictions, and be ready to distribute to the necessities of the saints. We will especially pray for, and with, each other, for the churches universally, for the promised effusion of the Holy Spirit, for the prosperity of Zion, and the ingathering of the elect, and may the God of peace who/brought again from the dead our? Lord Jesus Christ, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make us perfect in every good work, to do His will, that we may not only enjoy a name and place in the church on earth, but finally unite with His glorious church of the first born in Heaven, in ascribing blessings, honor and might, majesty and dominion to Him who sitteth on the throne, and the Lamb forever.

Constitution.

The Constitution of the Association is as follows:

ART. 1. This Association shall be composed of delegates annually sent from the churches based upon it.

ART. 2. 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 min-, isters, the name of the church and pastor, the time of their monthly meeting, and the name of their nearest postoffice:

ART. 2. 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. 4. 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. 5. 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: 6. 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, ex-

cept in the case of a tie, on any matter.

ART. 7. 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. 8. The Clerk shall also preserve a file of the ininutes of the Association, which he shall deliver to his

successor when he vacates the office.

ART. 9. The association shall meet annually, according to adjournment, and shall have power to transact all business pertaining to the general good of this body. Re-ART. 10. 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 is 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 pow-

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er 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 disbursments 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

delivered to him by his successor.

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 who so ever 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 Bapaist 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, provid-

ed 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 ac-

knowledgment 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 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 or-

der 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 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.

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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 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.

my to here 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 Oldand New Testaments were given by the inspiration of God, and are binding on all as our infallible rule of faith and practice.—11 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 prosperity 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.—1 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; Rom. 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 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. 6.4; Matt. 7.10; Rom. 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; Isa. 17; Heb. 9.27.

-CHURCHES, PASTORS'AND DELEGATES.

Springfield, Henry county, Ala-Pastor, D. L. Chandler; Delegates—A, L. Brown, J. A. Givens, E. Rabon and M. Nall.

Prospect, Henry county, Ala.—Pastor, Calvin Dykes; Delegates—J. W. Conner, J. B. Prevatte, W. W. Clark and H. Spurgeon Cherry.

Howard's Grové, Henry county, Ala.—Rastor, Calvin Dykes; Delegates—J. F. Capps, J. B. Williams, T. D.

End

Adams, Joseph Whitaker, J. F. Johnson, E. R. Williams, W. L. Lee, W. Ray, Geo. Smith, O. B. Johnson and A. Love.

New Home, Henry county, Ala.—Pastor, J. M. Murdock; Delegates—L. C. Culbreth, R. L. Culbreth and E. P. McNeal.

Hickory Grove, Jackson county, Fla.—Pastor, D. L. Chandlor; Delegates—J. W. Rodgers, J. D. Stephens, J. M. Robinson, J. R. Simes, W. Hatcher and Ogden Ford:

New Harmony, Henry county, Ala.—Pastor, Calvin Dykes; Delegates—A. J. Granger, D. L. Calloway and J. J. Granger.

Friendship, Geneva county, Ala.—Pastor, C. M. Whittle; Delegates—Frank Hatcher and J. H. Forshee...

New Pilgrim, Henry county, Ala,—Pastor, R. L. Hunter; Delegates—W. G. Odom and J. F. Thomas.

Ardilla, Henry county, Ala,—Pastor, G. L. Love;

Delegates—C. R. Cobb and J. F. Fillingim.

Turner Springs, Holmes county, Fla.—Pastor, J.D.::
Sowell; Delegate—W. L. Rhodes./

New Hope, Dale county, Ala.—Pastor, G. W. Cherry; Delegates—A. M. Kirkland and Moses Skets.

Freewill Rest, Jackson Co.,/Fla.—Pastor, Sam Ely;

Delegates-H. Z. Green, W. Whiddon and A. Tyson.

Pilchia Pond, Jackson county, Fla:—Pastor, J. A. C. Robinson;—By Letter.

Union Springs, Henry county, Ala.—Pastor, W. J. Murdock; Delegates—F. J. Whitaker, D. V. Olive, J. T.

Eubanks and W. H. Jenkins.

Rocky Grove, Jackson county, Fla.—Pastor, W. J.,
Murdock; Delegates—M. J. Mercer and W. T. Evans...

Antioch, Holmes county, Fla.—Pastor, J. W. Bruner;

Delegate-W. C. Whitehurst.

Pleasant Grove, Geneva county, Ala.—Pastor—;

Delegate—J. R. Conner.

Pleasant Homé, Geneva Co., Ala.—Pastor—; Delegates—A. J. Brown, David Mixon and Z. B. Hagins.

Sweet Home, Geneva Co., Ala.—Pastor—; Delegates

-J. Samson and J. D. Harper-

Pleasant, Ridge, Geneva county, Ala\-Pastor--;

-By Proxy.

Pittman Creek, Holmes county, Fla. Pastor—;

-By Proxy.

CHURCHES AND COUNTIES.	CLERKS AND THEIR P. O'S.	Rec. by baptism.	Rec. by Con. Rec. by Letter	Restored.	Dism is: ed.	Excluded.	Days of Meeting.	No. of Members.	For Minutes.	For Asso. Purp's.	Value of Church.
Springfield Henry Co., Ala	E. B. Green, Lethan Ala J. L. Sellers, Cot onwood Ala. A. Z. Cubbeth, Godfrey, Ala J. D. Steptens Bascom, Fla J. D. Steptens Bascom, Fla J. Granger, Granger, Ala John Hatcher, Hartford, Ala W. G. Odom, Columbia, Ala W. G. Odom, Columbia, Ala C. R. Cobb, Ardilla, Ala J. R. Calvin, Barkers, Fla J. T. Ward, Peach Ala J. T. Ward, Peach Ala M. Green, Rascom, Fla M. Chason, Marianna Fla D. V. Olive, Ashford, Ala M. J. Mercer Greenwood, Fla. F. D. Woodward Pitts, Fla J. E. Miller, Chancelor, Ala J. B. Hagins, Geneva, Ala J. D. Harper, Pink, Ala J. D. Harper, Pink, Ala J. D. Harper, Pink, Ala J. Alford, Asa Ala	13 7 11 1 3 2 4 9 5 7	3 -1 1 -2 1 2 2 1 3 2 2 3 1 1	4 3 3 2 2 1	1 3 5 2	2		132 163 40 91 35 32 29 55 24 33 39 67 53	3 00 1 00 2 00 1 00 1 00 1 00 1 00 1 00 1	150 200 150 75 75 75 100 150 50 150 25	\$75 00 200 00 500 00 75 00 200 00 125 00 100 00 50 00

VALUE OF CHURCH PROPERTY.—Prospect, \$75.00; Howard's Grove, \$75.00; Hickory Grove, \$50.00; New Harmony, \$50.00; Ardilla, \$25.00; Freewill's Rest, \$50.00; Pilchia Pond, \$25.00; Union Springs, \$25.00; Rocky Grove, \$50.00.