

MINUTES
OF THE
Eighteenth Annual Session
OF THE
STATE LINE
Free Will Baptist Association,
CONVENED WITH THE CHURCH AT
HICKORY GROVE, JACKSON CO., FLA.,
OCTOBER 8th, 9th and 10th, 1903.

OFFICERS:

REV. JEFFERSON D. STEPHENS,	MODERATOR,
J. W. D. STEPHENS,	CLERK,
REV. G. L. LOVE,	TREASURER.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

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

The next session of this Association will convene with Howard's
Grove, Houston County, Alabama, at 11 o'clock, A. M.,
on Thursday before the second Sunday in
October A. D., 1904.

1904.
FREE WILL BAPTIST PRINT,
AYDEN, N. C.

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PROCEEDINGS.

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According to announcement the Eighteenth Annual Session of the State Line Free Will Baptist Association, convened with Hickory Grove church, Jackson county, Fla., on Thursday at 11 o'clock a. m., before the 2nd Sunday in October, A. D. 1903.

The introductory services were conducted by Rev. W. J. Mims from Luke 24: 17, followed by Rev. W. J. Murdock. The Association then adjourned one hour and a half for refreshments.

THURSDAY—AFTERNOON SESSION.

The Association reassembled in the house and the former Moderator read for an evening's lesson the 15th Psalm, and after singing, "Amazing grace," humbled in prayer with the Moderator. The body then dispatched business as follows, after being called to order by the Moderator:

Letters from various churches were called for, handed in and read by Bros. J. D. Stephens and J. I. Hatcher and their state minuted.

The churches and delegates were enrolled as follows:

1. Hickory Grove—J. D. Standland, J. W. Rodgers, E. Hatcher, T. J. Simes, A. Holland, Drew Green and J. W. D. Stephens.
2. Ardilla—J. J. Austan.
3. New Pilgrim—W. G. Odom.
4. Rocky Grove—R. T. Baxter, Chas. Robison and M. J. Mercer.
5. Pilchia Pond—Mason Chason.
6. Union Spring—D. V. Olive, S. E. Anglin.
7. Howards Grove—Ben Williams, J. F. Chapps, E. R. Williams, Geo. Smith, S. J. Frith and R. L. Frith.
8. Springfield—M. Nall, W. B. Hardy and E. Rabon.
9. New Home—E. P. McNeal and H. A. McNeal.

10. Freewill's Rest—H. G. Green and J. T. Bazzell.
 11. Prospect—E. B. Green, J. S. Conner and R. L. Cheshire.

12. New Hope—A. M. Kirkland.

13. New Harmony—A. J. Granger and J. J. Granger.

On motion the letters from various churches were received.

The body then, on motion, proceeded with the election of a moderator and clerk.

The moderator appointed brethren J. D. Stephens and J. I. Hatcher to count the ballots.

Rev. Jefferson D. Stephens was elected moderator and J. W. D. Stephens were re-elected clerk, which permanently organized the body.

On motion of G. W. Cherry, we have no preaching this afternoon.

After a few complimentary words to the body, the moderator invited visiting brethren to seats with us.

Call for petitionary letters. None received.

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

On motion Bro. E. Hatcher from Hickory Grove was seated as a delegate to fill a vacancy from his church.

The various committees were then appointed as follows:

1. On Divine services—Bros. J. W. Rodgers, J. J. Austan, W. G. Odom and R. T. Baxter.

2. On Temperance—Bros. G. W. Cherry, J. I. Hatcher, E. B. Green and A. M. Kirkland.

3. On Nominations—Bros. Calvin Dykes, Mason Chason M. J. Mercer and Drew Green.

4. On Finance—Bros. J. W. Rodgers, H. G. Green, J. A. Robinson and J. M. Murdock.

5. On Missions—Bros. W. J. Mims, M. Nall, W. B. Hardy and H. A. McNeal.

6. On Documents—Bros. D. L. Chandler, J. S. Conner, E. P. McNeal and A. Holland.

7. On Education—Bros. Calvin Dykes, E. Hatcher, T. J. Simes and Chas Robinson.

8. On Sabbath Schools—Bros. W. J. Murdock, J. D. Standland, D. V. Clive and S. E. Anglin.

9. On Obituaries—Bros. J. F. Chapps, E. R. Williams E. Rabon and J. T. Bazzell.

10. On Suggestions—Bros. D. L. Chandler, Geo. Smith, J. I. Hatcher, G. L. Love and R. L. Hunter.

11. On Character of Ministers, appointed Friday afternoon—H. G. Green, J. M. Murdock and E. Rabon.

On motion, we have no night service.

On motion of G. W. Cherry, the calling of the roll was omitted, as it had been previously called.

The clerk then read the decorum. Call for correspondents from sister associations. One was found corresponding, to wit: Southeastern Association—Bro. J. L. Parker.

Bro. Parker was received and given the right hand of fellowship.

Call for report of committee on Divine services, for Friday morning. The report was adopted as read.

On motion of Rev. C. Dykes, the association adjourned until 8 o'clock Friday morning. After which, the body bowed in prayer with Rev. D. L. Chandler.

Benediction by Rev. Calvin Dykes.

FRIDAY—MORNING SESSION.

The Association met pursuant to adjournment. The house was brought to order by the Moderator reading the 8th chapter of Romans. The body then joined in singing, "How sweet the name of Jesus sounds," afterwards humbling in prayer with Eld. D. L. Chandler.

Rev. D. L. Chandler moved that Rev. G. W. Cherry retire to the school house and preach, but owing to the unsuitableness of the house, services were omitted. Invited visiting brethren to seats with us.

Renewed call for letters from sister churches. One received; to wit, New Harmony. It was read by the clerk and placed on roll.

On motion, the letter was received as read.

Renewed call for petitionary letters. None received.

On motion, Bro. Ben Williams was seated as a delegate from Howard's Grove.

Renewed call for correspondents from sister associations.

Bro. G. W. Cherry moved that Rev. J. J. Burtshaw of the Congregationalist Church be extended a seat of welcome, which was duly carried.

The clerk called the roll.

On motion Rev. W. J. Mims, Bro. R. L. Cheshire from Prospect was seated as a delegate to fill a vacancy from his church.

On motion of Rev. Calvin Dykes that we correspond with sister associations.

On motion, the moderator appoint correspondents when volunteers did not offer.

The following brethren either volunteered or were appointed delegates:

To Southeastern—Rev. G. W. Cherry and E. R. Williams.

To Martin—Revs. W. J. Murdock and Calvin Dykes.

On motion of Rev. D. L. Chandler, no correspondent was sent to the Chattahoochee Association.

To Liberty—Revs. G. L. Love, J. M. Murdock and J. D. Pearce.

To Choctawhatchee—J. W. Conner and Rev. D. L. Chandler.

To Midway—Bros. J. T. Bazzell, and A. M. Kirkland.

To Cahaba River—By letter, on motion of Rev. G. W. Cherry.

To Salem—Rev. J. A. Robinson and Mason Chason.

On motion, the clerk read a letter written by Bro. Z. B. Hagins to Bro. D. L. Chandler imparting information that caused our body to doubt our delegates being welcomed to the Central association if sent. Whereupon Rev. J. I. Hatcher moved to not correspond.

On motion, of Rev. D. L. Chandler, that the committee report, that was appointed at our last session to the Liberty association to wait on Bro. W. H. Reneaw on the charge of being an expelled member from this association.

Bro. G. W. Cherry, on motion of D. L. Chandler, read a report from W. H. Reneaw stating that if he, W. H. Reneaw, had done or said a wrong of any person or persons, he was sorry for it and asked pardon, or had offended the State Line Association.

On motion of Bro. A. Holland, W. H. Reneaw's written acknowledgements were received.

Call for report on Divine Services.

On motion, adopted as read.

On motion, the body adjourned till 2 o'clock, for 11 o'clock services.

FRIDAY—AFTERNOON SESSION.

The Association reassembled pursuant to adjournment. The moderator read 1st chapter 1 John. After singing a hymn the body humbled in prayer with Rev. J. I. Hatcher.

Renewed call for correspondents from sister associations.

The full report of the committee on divine services which was called for and read at various times as follows:

COMMITTEE ON DIVINE SERVICES.

We your committee on divine services, beg lief to report as follows: Friday at 9 a. m. G. W. Cherry to preach. Friday at 11 a. m. D. L. Chandler to preach and R. L. Hunter to close. Friday at 3 p. m. W. J. Murdock to preach G. L. Love to close. Friday night J. D. Stephens to preach and W. J. Mims to close. Saturday at 10 a. m. Calvin Dykes to preach and J. M. Murdock to close. Saturday at 11 a. m. J. J. Burshaw to preach and G. W. Cherry to close.

Respectfully Submitted,

J. W. RODGERS, Chairman.

The report was received and adopted as read.

COMMITTEE ON DOCUMENTS.

We your committee on documents beg lief to submit the following; to wit: We recommend that we use all the means in our power to secure a printing press of our own. We also recommend the adoption as our song book, "The Revised Sacred Harp."

Respectfully Submitted,
D. L. CHANDLER, Chairman.

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

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE.

We your committee on finance beg lief to make the following report: Received for minutes \$15.80,
Received for associational purposes, 12.35,
Total, 28.15.

Respectfully Submitted,
J. W. RODGERS, Chairman.

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

ON EDUCATION.—We, the committee on education submit the following report, to wit:

Any movement is heartily endorsed 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, and we request and insist on parents giving their children an education. Give your children wholesome literature to read; subscribe for one or more religious newspapers, whose influence will be elevating, inspiring a higher plane of social life, which will make worthy men and women of our dear children.

CALVIN DYKES, Chairman.

On motion of Rev. J. M. Murdock, the report was received and adopted and committee discharged.

ON SABBATH SCHOOLS.—We, your committee on Sabbath Schools beg leave to make the following report:

We find that there have been only two Sabbath schools for the past year.

We recommend that each minister in this body insist upon their church to urge the good of Sabbath schools. We recommend the Freewill Baptist literature.

W. J. MURDOCK, Chairman.

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

On motion, we adjourned until we could retire from the church to the school house, where business was resumed.

ON OBITUARIES.—We, your committee on obituaries beg leave to make the following report, to wit:

We find six deaths since the last session, and we ask that their obituaries appear in our minutes.

I. F. CAPPS, Chairman.

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

On motion, Bros. J. A. Robinson and Mason Chason, at their request, were excused from the body.

COMMITTEE ON SUGGESTIONS.—We, your committee on suggestions beg leave to submit the following report:

1. That we, the Free Will Baptist, suggest that every preacher who is a member of this association take up a collection in his church for the purpose of procuring a printing outfit, for the purpose of advancing the Free Will Baptist cause, and that each pastor have such collection at the next session of this association.

2. We suggest the questions as follows: Is the church a prohibition organization? Are its members who do not sustain its principles considered good members of the church? and ask that these questions be debated in this session.

3. We further suggest that this association adopt a plan for procuring memorial funds.

4. Also suggest that this association devise some plans by which funds can be raised for charitable purposes.

6. We also suggest that persons who are members of this association should not leave the association until the session is dismissed without rendering an excuse, and if such be done, that such person be dealt with.

6. That each church fill the blank in their letters.

Respectfully Submitted,

D. L. CHANDLER, Chairman.

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

Section 1, Amended, That the State Line Association take \$400 stock in the outfit by the next General Association and that our correspondents so notify the associations they visit, in order that they may also take stock.

The plan adopted on motion of Bro. A. Holland to comply with section 3, was that each male member in the association contribute ten cents annually to its treasury for the purpose of marking the graves of our deceased ministers.

At this juncture the moderator appointed the committee on Character of Ministers, which appears in the regular list of committees.

The association then on motion of Rev. Calvin Dykes adjourned until 8 o'clock Saturday morning. After which the body humbled in divine supplication with Rev. D. L. Chandler. Benediction by Rev. G. W. Cherry.

SATURDAY—MORNING SESSION.

The association met pursuant to adjournment. The moderator read as a morning lesson the 31st Psalm. The body joined in singing "Amazing grace," after which Rev. Calvin Dykes offered prayer.

The moderator invited visiting brethren to seats with us. Renewed call for petitionary letters and visiting correspondents. Called the roll. Called for report on nominations.

COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS—We the committee on nominations submit the following report; to wit: We nominate Howard's Grove church for the next session of this association. We nominate Bro. R. L. Hunter to preach the introductory sermon and J. D. Stephens close.

We nominate Bro. J. A. Robinson to write the circular letter.

CALVIN DYKES, Chairman.

COMMITTEE ON TEMPERANCE.—We your committee on temperance beg lief to make the following report; to wit: Whereas we are thankful to know that our peoples eyes are being opened on the subject of intoxicating liquor and that they are quitting the intoxicating drink, especially the best men of our land and country. We suggest that all our preachers, deacons and members do everything that lies in their power against the sale of intoxicating drink, or the use of it in anyway, as it destroys the influence of the church and brings disgrace in our land and country and destroys your brothers soul and body and its victims into eternity.

G. W. CHERRY, Chairman.

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

On motion of Bro. A. Holland, Rev. G. W. Cherry was granted the privilege of discussion after the adoption of the report.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

Received for minutes,	\$22.35;
Received for Asssociational purposes,	15.50;
Total,	37.85.
Paid Clerk for his services,	10.00;
Paid for publication of minutes,	15.50;
Paid express on minutes,	1.50;
Paid postage on minutes,	2.34.
Total,	29.34;
Amount at present in the hands of Treas.	37.46.

G. L. LOVE, Treasurer.

On motion, the report was received.

COMMITTEE ON MISSIONS—We your committee on missions submit the following:

There have been no churches organized in the bounds of the association this past year. We know of no mission work that has been done. We recommend that there be more mission work done in the next associational year.

We recommend that this association appoint a man to preach on missions at the next session.

W. J. MIMS, Chairman.

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

Be it Resolved, That we, the State Line Free Will Baptist Association, do earnestly request and suggest that each church send liberal funds to the association for the purpose of helping to support widows and orphans, as we have such that need our attention in our churches, for we are commanded to visit the widows and orphans and also wornout preachers.

On motion, of Rev. D. L. Chandler, the moderator appoint some one to preach the mission sermon. The moderator appointed Eld. D. L. Chandler.

On motion of Rev. W. J. Mims, Rev. G. W. Cherry was made alternate.

COMMITTEE ON CHARACTER OF MINISTERS—We your committee on character of ministers beg leif to submit the following report; towit: So far as we can ascertain what ministers we have in our association are in very good standing at present and we hope will remain steadfast in the doctrine of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We recommend that the names of all the ministers that are not in our association be dropped from our minutes.

Respectfully Submitted,
H. G. GREEN, Chairman.

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

On motion of G. W. Cherry, the clerk called the ministers roll and the names of all ministers known to be out of the bounds of this association, were erased.

The reading of the Circular Letter was next called for, but its writer, Rev. D. L. Chandler, did not have it present, but on motion of Bro. M. J. Mercer, the subject was given, and the letter to be sent the clerk for publication.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS—Rev. W. J. Mims moved that Bro. I. D. Stephens be ordained for the ministry but withdrew his motion, leaving the ordination to be performed by the incumbent's church.

On motion of Rev. G. W. Cherry, Bro. A. L. Granger from the Salem association was given a welcome seat with us.

On motion of Rev. D. L. Chandler, the moderator appointed a delegation of five to the General Association, which convenes with Prospect church, Houston, Ala., on Friday at 11 o'clock, a. m., before the fourth Sunday in June, A. D. 1904.

The following named brethren composed the delegation: Revs. D. L. Chandler, G. W. Cherry, J. I. Hatcher, W. J. Mims and W. J. Murdock.

And on motion of Rev. G. W. Cherry, the moderator was added to the above delegation.

On motion of G. W. Cherry, the heartfelt thanks of the association were tendered to Hickory Grove church and community for the kind hospitality shown the body during its stay with them.

On motion of M. J. Mercer, the clerk was paid \$10.00 for his services.

On motion of G. W. Cherry, a vote of thanks was tendered the moderator and clerk for their services.

On motion of W. J. Murdock, the association adjourned to meet with Howard's Grove church, Houston, county, Ala., at 11 o'clock, a. m., on Thursday before the second Sunday in October, A. D. 1904.

After taking the parting hand the body humbled in divine supplication with W. J. Mims. Benediction by Rev. Calvin Dykes.

REV. J. D. STEPHENS, Mod;
J. W. D. STEPHENS, Clerk.

OBITUARIES.

MATILDA JOHNSON.

Sacred to the memory of Sister Matilda Johnson who died December the 6th, 1902. She was a devoted member with us at Springfield. She leaves two children to mourn her departure. Peace be to her. She was about seventy-two years old.

JOHN T. STEPHENS.

Sacred to the memory of our beloved brother, John T. Stephens. He was a member with us at Hickory Grove. He had been a member and deacon of the church for a number of years. He leaves a wife, two sons, friends and relatives to mourn his departure. Our loss is heaven's gain. Peace be to his sleeping remains. Born Apr. 1st, 1851. Departed this life May 22nd, 1903. Age 52 years, 1 month and 21 days.

Statistics of the Association.

The State Line Free Will Baptist Association was organized at Howard Grove church, Nov. 20th, 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
1902.....	Calvin Dykes.....	J. W. D. Stephens.....	Union Springs.....	949
1903.....	J. D. Stephens.....	J. W. D. Stephens.....	Hickory Grove.....	827

List of Ordained Ministers and their Postoffices.

1. D. L. Chandler, Springfield, Ashford, Ala.
2. W. J. Mims, Springfield, Webb, Ala.
3. G. L. Love, Howard's Grove, Ashford, Ala.
4. Calvin Dykes, Howard's Grove, Ashford, Ala.
5. W. J. Murdock, Howard's Grove, Ashford, Ala.
6. J. M. Murdock, Howard's Grove, Ashford Ala.
7. J. I. Hatcher, Hickory Grove, Bascom, Fla.
8. A. M. Nowell, Union Springs, Gordon, Ala.
9. W. S. Cook, Union Springs, Pansy, Ala.
10. R. L. Hunter, New Pilgrim, Columbia, Ala.
11. Bro. Horn, New Pilgrim, Columbia, Ala.
12. J. A. Robinson, Pilchia Pond, Marianna, Fla.
13. G. W. Cherry, Prospect, Dothan, Ala.
14. H. G. Wiggins, Prospect, Wright, Fla.
15. C. M. Whittle, New Hope, Eunola, Ala.
16. J. E. Lock, Ardilla, Ardilla, Ala.

LICENTIATES.

1. J. D. Stephens, Hickory Grove, Marianna, Fla.
2. I. S. Hunter, New Pilgrim, Columbia, Ala.
3. J. W. Welch, New Pilgrim, Ashford, Ala.
4. J. D. Pearce, New Harmony, Cottonwood, Ala.

Order of Business.

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

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 ministers, the name of the church and pastor, the time of their monthly meeting, and the name of their nearest postoffice.

ART. 3. 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, except 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 minutes 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.

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.

ART. 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 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 collection for and disbursements of all contributions made by such church for the pastor, etc., and 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 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 acknowledgement 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 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 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 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 infallable 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.—1Cor. 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 decree delivered from the beginning, except 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 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 washing of the Saint's 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 and the Pastors of Each.

Hickory Grove, D. L. Chandler; Ardilla, W. J. Murdock; New Pilgrim, D. L. Chandler; Rocky Grove, J. M. Murdock; Pilchia Pond, J. A. Robinson; Union Springs, W. J. Murdock; Howard's Grove, J. I. Hill; Springfield, D. L. Chandler; New Home, J. A. Murdock; Freewill's Rest, Sam Ely; Prospect, Calvin Dykes, New Hope, J. L. Parker; New Harmony, J. M. Murdock.

STATISTICAL TABLE.

CHURCHES, COUNTIES AND STATES.	CLERKS AND THEIR P. O'S.	Rec'd by baptism.	Rec'd on confess'n.	Rec'd by Letter.	Restored.	Dismiss'd by Let'r.	Excluded.	Died.	Days of Meeting.	No. of Members.	Paid for Minutes.	For Asso Purp's.	Value of Church.
Hickory Grove, Jackson Co., Fla...	J. W. D. Stephens, Bascom, Fla.	5	5	1		1	2	1	4	91	\$2 00	\$1 50	\$500 00
Ardilla, Houston Co., Ala.....	J. J. Austin, Ardilla, Ala.....	1	1		1		1			26	50	75	
New Pilgrim, Houston Co., Ala....	W. G. Odom, Columbia, Ala....			1					1	24	75	75	250 00
Rocky Grove, Jackson Co., Fla....	M. J. Mercer, Greenwood, Fla..	1	1	1	2	4	1		3	63	75	60	125 00
Pilchia Pond, Jackson Co., Fla....	Mason Chason, Cana, Fla.....	12	5		3		4		3	56	1 30	75	
Union Spring, Houston Co., Ala...	D. H. Lewis, Columbia, Ala....	6	5		2	2	5		2	73	1 00	50	50 00
Howard's Grove, Houston Co., Ala	Ben Williams, Ashford, Ala.....	11	5	4	2	4	2	1	4	170	2 00	2 00	150 00
Springfield, Houston Co., Ala.....	M. Nall, Dothan, Ala.....	2	1				2	1	2	43	2 00	1 00	
New Home, Houston Co., Ala.....	A. Z. Culbreth, Godfrey, Ala.....					1			3	40	1 00	1 00	
Freewill's Rest, Jackson Co., Fla.	H. G. Green, Bascom, Fla.....							1	3	32	1 00	75	50 00
Prospect, Houston Co., Ala.....	E. B. Green, Dothan, Ala.....	1	3	3	2	6	4	2	3	140	1 50	1 50	75 00
New Hope, Dale Co., Ala.....	J. T. Ward, Peach, Ala.....					1	2		3	21	75	50	125 00
New Harmony, Houston Co., Ala.	A. J. Granger, Granger, Ala.....	13	4	2		3	2		2	48	1 25	75	50 00

VALUE OF CHURCH PROPERTY:—Hickory Grove, \$50.00; New Pilgrim, \$15.00; Rocky Grove, \$50.00; Union Spring, \$25.00; Howard's Grove, \$75.00; Freewill's Rest, \$50.00; Prospect, \$75.00; New Harmony, \$25.00.