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MINUTES
OF THE
Twentieth Annual Session
OF THE
STATE LINE
Free Will Baptist Association,
CONVENED WITH
NEW PILGRIM CHURCH, HOUSTON COUNTY, ALA.,
OCTOBER 5, 6 AND 7, 1905.

OFFICERS:

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

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

CALVIN DYKES, G. W. CHERRY, J. I. HATCHER, W. J.
MURDOCK AND WESLEY TOLER.

HOME MISSION BOARD:

R. G. HATCHER, A. HOLLAND, R. L. HUNTER, H. S.
CHERRY, AND A. L. GRANGER.

The next session of this Association will convene with Springfield
Church, three miles north of Houston, Ashford Co., Ala., on
Abbeville Road, at 11 o'clock, A. M., on Thursday
before the 2nd Sunday in October, A. D., 1906.

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AYDEN, N. C.

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Order of Business.

1. Organization.
2. Calling for letters from the different churches.
3. Electing officers.
4. Inviting visiting brethren to seats with us.
5. Calling for petitionary letters.
6. Appointing committees.
7. Calling the roll and reading the Decorm.
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.

Proceedings of the State Line Association.

The twentieth annual session of the State Line Free Will Baptist Association convened with New Pilgrim church, Houston Co., Ala., on Thursday at 11 o'clock a. m., before the 2nd Sunday in October, 1905.

Introductory services were conducted by Rev. Calvin Dykes, followed by Rev. J. M. Murdock—text: Luke 5: 27. The association then had an intermission until 2 p. m.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON SESSION.

The body reassembled with the former moderator and clerk present. After singing the moderator read Heb. 3rd chapter, prayer by Revs. G. W. Cherry and J. Hatcher. Letters from the various churches were called for, handed in and read by Rev. Calvin Dykes and Bro. H. S. Cherry.

The churches and delegates were enrolled as follows:

1. Hickory Grove—A. Holland, A. Z. Hatcher, J. M. Robinson, J. W. D. Stephens, Jesse and J. T. Hatcher.
2. Ardilla—By Letter.
3. New Pilgrim—W. G. Odom and F. J. Thomas.
4. Prospect—J. B. Prevatt, M. G. Howell, T. C. Newton, W. A. Cherry, Albert Searcy, H. Spurgeon Cherry, J. S. Conner, and L. L. Cobb.
5. Rocky Grove—Geo. Elmore and Richard Baxter.
6. Springfield—W. B. Hardy, J. D. Oliver, E. Rabon, W. I. Barrett and J. F. Nowell.
7. Howard's Grove—Wesley Toler, J. W. Brown, J. F. Capps, J. B. Williams, Daniel Jernigan, and Geo. Smith.
8. Freewill's Rest—J. T. Brazwill and L. E. Powell.
9. New Harmony—H. Merritt and G. C. May.
10. Union Springs—J. T. Eubanks, D. V. Olive, W. H. Jenkins and H. C. Daniels.
11. Damascus—J. J. Mercer.

12. Silver Run—W. T. Riley and E. W. King.

13. New Life—A. L. Granger.

On motion of J. M. Robinson, the letters were received with a provision to fill vacancies in the delegations with members present from their respective churches.

On motion of G. W. Cherry called and revised the roll.

The body was then permanently organized by electing Jefferson D. Stephens Moderator and re-electing J. W. D. Stephens clerk.

Invited visiting brethren to seats with us.

Call for petitionary letters: One received from Silver Run church. This was an old church received without reorganization.

On motion of G. W. Cherry, it was re-instated and the delegation was seated.

The various committees were appointed as follows:

1. On Temperance—Bros. G. W. Cherry, A. Holland, W. G. Odom, A. Z. Hatcher and Richard Baxter.

2. On Nominations—Bros. J. M. Robinson, F. J. Thomas, J. J. Mercer, W. H. Jenkins, G. C. May, W. J. Mims, C. Dykes and G. W. Cherry.

3. On Finance—Bros. H. S. Cerry, W. B. Hardy, J. S. Conner, J. B. Prevatt, M. G. Howell and H. Merritt.

4. On Missions—Bros. C. Dykes, A. Holland, J. T. Brazwill, Wesley Toler, W. J. Barrett and E. Rabon.

5. On Documents—Bros. J. I. Hatcher, J. T. Eubank, H. C. Daniels, J. B. Williams, Geo. Smith and Geo. Elmore.

6. On Education—Bros. R. L. Hunter, W. A. Cherry, Jesse Hatcher, D. V. Olive, L. E. Powell, J. W. Brown and Daniel Jernigan.

7. On Sabbath Schools—Bros. W. S. Cook, John Hatcher, T. C. Newton, Albert Searcy, J. F. Nowel and L. L. Cobb.

On Obituaries—Bros. W. J. Murdock, W. T. Riley, W. J. Mims, A. B. Radney, G. L. Love and G. C. May.

9. On Suggestions—Bros. C. Dykes, J. D. Pierce, I. S. Hunter, J. G. Harris, G. L. Love, G. W. Cherry, W. J. Mims and J. M. Murdock.

10. On Character of Ministers—Bros. W. J. Mims, A. Holland, Westly Toler, W. H. Jenkins, J. T. Brazwell, J. F. Capps, J. D. Oliver and John Hatcher.

11. On Divine Service—Bros. J. M. Murdock, A. Holland, E. W. King, Wesly Toler, W. B. Hardy, Jno. Hatcher, J. B. Prevatt and J. F. Nowell.

On motion of Rev. G. W. Cherry, Bro. A. B. Rodney was excused until Saturday morning.

On motion of Rev. J. I. Hatcher, omitted calling the roll and reading the decorum this afternoon.

Call for correspondents from sister associations: Four were found to be corresponding, viz:

Chattahoochee—Bro. C. C. Harris.

Liberty—Bro. Sam Carroll.

Southeastern—W. Z. Batson, J. L. Calloway and J. L. Parker.

Salem—G. W. Uery.

They were received and given the right hand of fellowship.

On motion of Rev. W. S. Cook the body adjourned until 8:30 o'clock Friday a. m.

Sang tune, "Glory to his name." Benediction by Rev. W. J. Mims.

FRIDAY MORNING SESSION.

The association met pursuant to adjournment. The body joined in singing, "Grace 'tis a charming sound," after which we humbled in prayer with the moderator.

On motion of Bro. A. Holland, Rev. J. J. Burtshaw was given a seat of welcome in the body. Invited visiting brethren to seats with us.

Renewed call for petitionary letters. After which the clerk called the roll and read the decorum. Renewed call for correspondents from sister Associations.

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

The following brethren either volunteered or were appointed delegates:

To Southeastern—Brethren G. W. Cherry, W. B. Hardy and J. T. Eubanks.

To Martin—Brethren C. Dykes, J. I. Hatcher and E. W. King.

To Liberty—Brethren G. L. Love, J. M. Murdock and J. F. Capps.

To Choctawhatchee—Brethren J. D. Pearce, G. W. Cherry and W. J. Mims.

To Midway—Bro. R. L. Hunter.

To Salem—Brethren J. I. Hatcher and R. G. Hatcher.

To Central—Rev. G. W. Cherry.

On motion of Rev. G. W. Cherry, correspond with any other near association with minutes.

On motion of Bro. J. B. Prevatt, send Choctawhatchee Association six minutes.

The reports of the various committees were called for.

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

DIVINE SERVICES—We, your committee on Divine Services, submit the following report, to wit: Friday, 9:30, a. m., Rev. J. J. Burtashaw preach and Rev. W. J. Murdock close; Friday, 11, a. m., Rev. W. J. Mims preach and Rev. W. S. Cook close; Friday, 3, p. m., Rev. J. M. Murdock preach and Rev. J. I. Hatcher close; Saturday, 9:30, a. m., Rev. J. G. Harris preach and Rev. J. D. Pearce close; Saturday, 11, a. m., Rev. Jefferson D. Stephens preach and Rev. R. L. Hunter close.

Respectfully Submitted,

J. M. Murdock, Chairman.

The report was received and adopted.

MISSIONS—We, your committee on missions, beg leave to submit the following report, to wit: We heartily

endorse the spirit of some of our churches on missions and recommend that this body at this session appoint a Home Mission Board and define its duties.

Calvin Dykes, Chairman.

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

On motion of Bro. J. T. Eubanks, Rev. Pink Steward, a Missionary Baptist, was given a seat of welcome in the body.

FINANCE—We, your committee on finance, beg leave to make the following report, to wit:

Received for minutes	\$13.85
Received for associational purposes	11.90
Received for missions	5.00
Received for memorial fund	.15
Total	<u>\$30.90</u>

H. Spurgeon Cherry, Chairman.

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

NOMINATIONS—We, the committee on nominations, submit the following report, to wit:

We nominate Rev. W. J. Murdock to preach the introductory sermon of the next session, and Rev. W. J. Mims to conduct the service. Also we nominate Bro. Jefferson D. Stephens to write the next circular letter.

We nominate Springfield church for the next session of this association.

J. M. Robinson, Chairman.

On motion of Bro. J. B. Prevatt, the report was received and adopted and committee discharged.

DOCUMENTS—We, your committee on documents, make the following report:

We Recommend the FREE WILL BAPTIST paper and Free Will Baptist literature for our Sunday School work.

We urge that more of our people read the FREE WILL BAPTIST and become more acquainted with each other.

Respectfully submitted

J. I. Hatcher, Chairman.

On motion of Rev. G. W. Cherry, the report was received and adopted and committee discharged.

On motion of Bro. A. Holland, adjourned for 11 o'clock services. The body was to reassemble at 2, p. m.

FRIDAY EVENING SESSION.

The association reassembled pursuant to adjournment. The Moderator read for an evening's lesson the 37th Psalm. Prayer by Rev. W. S. Cook. Renewed call for petitionary letters. Renewed call for correspondents from sister associations.

SABBATH SCHOOLS—We, your committee on Sabbath Schools, submit the following report, to wit:

We find only three Sabbath Schools within the bounds of our association, and these have only ninety-five students, but we find that there are 540 students not in reach of Free Will Baptist churches that should be in Sabbath Schools and have not attended so far as we can ascertain. Why so few Sunday Schools is because of the non-interest of parents and leading church members. Now we urge the parents and members to get about their Father's work and promote the cause of Christ in the way of Sunday School work.

W. S. Cook, Chairman.

On motion, the report was received and adopted, with an amendment that this association elect a Sunday School evangelist, and the committee be discharged.

On motion of Rev. G. W. Cherry, the association was divided into two Sunday School districts. The upper part to form the upper district and the lower part to form the lower district.

Rev. W. S. Cook was elected evangelist for the upper district, and Rev. J. I. Hatcher was elected evangelist for the lower district. They are to do the work as they see proper and look to the places where they work for compensation, and make a report of their labors to the next session of this association.

On motion of Bro. J. B. Prevatt, Bro. Sam Carroll was excused for the remainder of the session.

Renewed call for petitionary letters. One presented, viz: New Life.

On motion, it was received and the bearer, Bro. A. L. Granger, was received as a delegate. He was given the right hand of fellowship while the body sang "On Jordan's Stormy Banks I Stand."

On motion of Rev. J. D. Pearce, Rev. G. L. Love was excused for the remainder of the session.

OBITUARIES—We, your committee on obituaries, make the following report:

We find that there has been nine deaths since our last session, and we recommend that their obituaries appear in our minutes. W. J. Murdock, Chairman.

On motion, the report was received and adopted and the committee discharged with an amendment that the clerk of the churches that failed to send obituaries of their deceased, forward them to the clerk of the association.

CHARACTER OF MINISTERS—We, the committee on character of ministers, make the following report:

All of our ministers are in good standing as far as we know, not having time to investigate them.

W. J. Mims, Chairman.

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

SUGGESTIONS—We, the committee on suggestions, submit the following report, to wit:

We suggest that each church of the State Line Association make a minute report of the minister's character, belonging to their church. We also suggest that this association define the duties of the executive committee. We suggest that the constitution and decorum of the association be revised so as to read as follows: [See Church Decorum.] Calvin Dykes, Chairman.

On motion of G. W. Cherry, the report was received and adopted and committee discharged.

The revised constitution and decorum are inserted at the proper place in the minute.

On motion of Rev. J. I. Hatcher, we excuse no one for any reason except sickness or legal business.

On motion of W. S. Cook, adjourn till 8:30, a. m., Saturday.

Benediction by Rev. J. I. Hatcher.

SATURDAY MORNING SESSION.

The body met pursuant to adjournment. The Moderator read the 14th chapter of Matthew, after which the body humbled in prayer with Rev. W. J. Murdock and again with Rev. G. W. Cherry.

Invited visiting brethren to seats with us.

Renewed call for petitionary letters and correspondents from sister associations.

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

We heartily endorse any movement for the betterment and improvement of our people intellectually as well as spiritually. Educated talent is wanted and also very much needed to promulgate and direct the cause of Christ. Education alone does not make christians, nay, but it does increase the christian's power for good. Public schools are established throughout our country for the purpose of educating our children, and we do request and impress that our people take advantage of this great blessing and educate their children. We also insist that our children have wholesome literature, such as religious newspapers published by the Free Will Baptist, etc. Such influence will be elevating and inspiring to a higher place of social life, which will make worthy men and women of our children.

We find that our people are careless about educating their children and we urge and impress them to educate their children, as we find that to be their honorable duty.

Rev. R. L. Hunter. Chairman.

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

At this juncture Rev. W. S. Cook asked for contributions to educate young men preparing for the ministry.

The following amounts were paid:

W. S. Cook	\$1.00
J. D. Stephens	1.00
J. W. D. Stephens	1.00
J. T. Eubanks	1.00
J. I. Hatcher	1.00
W. H. Jenkins	1.00
Geo. Smith	.50
W. J. Murdock	.50
A. Holland	1.00
A. C. Cobb	.10
J. F. Nowell	1.00
Wesly Toler	1.00

Total	\$10.10
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On motion of Bro. J. T. Eubanks, turn the amount into the treasury to be held and used for the purpose raised.

TEMPERANCE—We, your committee on temperance, make the following report, to wit:

As the Lord has commanded his children to be temperate in all things we will submit and surrender to be temperate in speech, act and deed, and as God promises woe unto him that giveth his neighbor drink or putteth the bottle to his lips to make him drunk, we will not only abstain from it ourselves but will do everything against the sale of it or the use of it in any way. We see that whiskey is destructive to humanity and the church. Here is the estimation of one bushel of corn: The distiller gets four gallons of whiskey, which retails at \$16.80, the farmer gets 25 cents, the U. S. government \$4.40, the railroad company gets \$1.00, the manufacturer gets \$4.00, the drayman get 15 cents, the consumer gets drunk, the wife gets hunger, the children get rags, ignorance and shame. References against whiskey: Prov. 23:20-21-31-32; 31:4-5; Isaiah 28:1-7; Joel 3:3; Hab. 2:15.

Respectfully,

G. W. Cherry, Chairman.

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

TREASURER'S REPORT.

Received for minutes	\$14.80
Received for associational purposes	10.75
Total	<hr/> \$25.55
Paid for printing minutes	\$13.50
Paid Clerk for services	10.00
Paid express on minutes	1.55
Paid postage on minutes	1.31
Paid J. A. Robinson by order of association	10.00
Paid D. L. Chandler by order of association	5.00
Total amount disbursed	<hr/> \$41.36
Total amount now in hand	\$23.33

G. L. Love, Treasurer.

On motion, it was received and adopted.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS.

On motion of Bro. A. Holland, elect an executive committee.

The regular order of business was suspended and the following named brethren were elected by acclamation: Bro. Calvin Dykes, G. W. Cherry, J. I. Hatcher, W. J. Murdock and Wesly Toler.

On motion, elect a Home Mission Board.

The regular order of business was suspended and the following named brethren were elected by a rising vote: Bros. R. G. Hatcher, A. Holland, R. L. Hunter, H. Spurgeon Cherry and A. L. Granger.

On motion, transfer the 11th Art. of old decorum of the association to the church decorum.

On motion, Rev. R. L. Hunter was granted further time to prepare the circular letter, and that it be published in our minutes and the FREE WILL BAPTIST paper, of Ayden, N. C.

On motion of J. M. Robinson, elect a treasurer.

The regular order of business was suspended and Rev. G. L. Love was elected by a rising vote.

On motion of Rev G. W. Cherry, that Bro. E. L. St. Claire, of Georgia, be invited to come within the bounds of our association next July.

On motion of Rev. G. W. Cherry, pay clerk \$10.00 for his services.

On motion, the moderator appoint a delegation to the General Association.

The following named brethren compose the delegation: Revs. Calvin Dykes, J. I. Hatcher, E. W. King, H. S. Cherry, R. L. Hunter and G. W. Cherry.

The General Association convenes with Macedonia church, 3 miles N. E. of Colquitt, Miller Co., Ga., on Friday before the fourth Sunday in July, A. D., 1906.

On motion of Rev. J. I. Hatcher, the heartfelt thanks of the association was tendered to New Pilgrim church and community for the kind hospitality shown the body during its stay with them.

On motion of Rev. Calvin Dykes, the association adjourned to meet with Springfield church, Houston Co., Ala., at 11 o'clock, a. m., on Thursday before the second Sunday in October, A. D., 1906.

The body then took the parting hand while singing "God be with you till we meet again." Prayer by Rev. G. W. Cherry.

REV. JEFFERSON D. STEPHENS, Moderator.

J. W. D. Stephens, Clerk.

OBITUARIES.

F. M. KNIGHT.

Sacred to the memory of Bro. F. M. Knight, who departed this life April 28th, 1905. He was 54 years and two months old when he departed this life. He was a consistent member of the Free Will Baptist church, at Bethany church, Randolph Co., Ga. He joined the church in 1888, and was a consistent member there until he moved to Webb, Ala., 1902, and in 1904 he joined with us at Prospect church near Dothan, Ala. He left a good wife and five children to mourn their loss. Our loss is his eternal gain. He was a good father and neighbor and a consistent member with us in Prospect church during his short stay with us. So we will say farewell, farewell Brother Knight. We trust we will meet you in the sweet by and by.

Statistics of the Association.

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

YEAR.	MODERATOR.	CLERK.	CHURCH.	No.
1886.....	D. L. Chandler.....	Ca'vin 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.....	Hew 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.....	947
1903.....	J. D. Stephens.....	J. W. D. Stephens.....	Hickory Grove.....	827
1904.....	J. D. Stephens.....	J. W. D. Stephens.....	Howard Grove.....	786
1905.....	J. D. Stephens.....	J. W. D. Stephens.....	New Pilgrim.....	745

List of Ordained Ministers and their Postoffices.

- ✓ 1. G. L. Love, Howard's Grove, ^{Ashford} Cottonwood, Ala.
- ✓ 2. W. F. Haskins, Hickory Grove, Woodville, Fla.
- ✓ 3. J. D. Stephens, Hickory Grove, Marianna, Fla.
- ✓ 4. J. B. Mills, Ardilla, Dothan, Ala.
- ✓ 5. D. L. Chandler, Springfield, Ashford, Ala.
- ✓ 6. W. J. Mims, Springfield, Gordon, Ala.
- ✓ 7. Calvin Dykes, Howards Grove, Ashford, Ala.
- ✓ 8. ~~W. J. Murdock, Howard's Grove, Ashford, Ala.~~
- ✓ 9. J. M. Murdock, Howard's Grove, Ashford, Ala.
- ✓ 10. J. I. Hatcher, Hickory Grove, Bascom, Fla.
- ✓ 11. W. S. Cook, Union Springs, Pansy, Ala.
- ✓ 12. R. L. Hunter, New Pilgrim, Columbia, Ala.
- ✓ 13. J. A. Robinson, Pilchia Pond, Marianna, Fla.
- ✓ 14. G. W. Cherry, Prospect, Dothan, Ala.
15. C. M. Whittle, New Hope, ~~Eunola, Ala.~~ ^{Geneva, Ala.}

LICENTIATES.

- ✓ 1. J. A. Givens, Springfield, Ashford, Ala.
- ✓ 2. J. G. Harris, Prospect, Dothan, Ala.

- ✓ 3. I. S. Hunter, New Pilgrim, Columbia, Ala.
- ✓ 4. J. D. Pearce, New Harmony, Cottonwood, Ala.
- ✓ 5. C. G. Ray, Ardilla, Dothan, Ala.
- ✓ 6. A. B. Radney, Prospect, Webb, Ala.
- ✓ 7. W. H. Lashley, Pilchia Pond, Cona, Fla.
- ✓ 8. A. C. Cobb, Prospect, Dothan, Ala.

Constitution of the State Line Association.

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

ART. 2. Each church shall be entitled to two delegates for every twenty-five members and one delegate for the fractional part of twenty-five. Provided, any church having less than twenty-five members it shall be entitled to two delegates.

ART. 3. The delegates from each church shall bear a letter certifying their election, to which shall be subjoined a table stating the number baptized, received by confession of faith, by letter, by restoration, dismissed by letter, excluded or died within the last Associational year, amount of all contributions, the time of their monthly meeting, the membership, ordained and licentiate ministers with their post office, and signed by the pastor and clerk of the church with their post office.

ART. 4. Newly constituted, or other churches, desiring admission into this union shall petition by delegation 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. 5. It is expected that the churches composing this body will send delegates and contributions 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, Clerk, Treasurer, Executive Committee and Home Mission Board. The Executive Committee and Home Mission Board shall be composed of five members each.

ART. 7. The Association shall meet annually, according to adjournment, and shall have power to trans-

act all business pertaining to the general good of the body.

ART. 8. This constitution may be altered or amended by a majority of the delegates present during any session.

Decorum of the State Line Association.

ART. 1. The Moderator, Clerk, Treasurer, Executive Committee and Home Mission Board shall be elected by ballot annually.

ART. 2. The Moderator shall preside over the deliberations of the Association when in session, preserve order and submit motions or other matters. He shall have the same right to vote as any other member, and provided the chair is occupied, the same right of speech.

ART. 3. Every motion receiving a second shall be submitted to the body, unless withdrawn.

ART. 4. 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 and then only when he departs from the subject under debate. Provided, however, any brother may address the Moderator to a "point of order."

ART. 5. The Clerk shall record the proceedings of the body when in session and superintend the publication of the same, and do all other writing pertaining to the business of the Association. He shall also preserve a file of minutes of the Association which he shall deliver to his successor in office.

ART. 6. The Treasurer shall keep a correct account of all funds received and disbursed by him showing balance, if any, on hand. He shall only pay out money on the order of the Association or the Executive Committee.

ART. 7. The Executive Committee shall have power to execute the laws and regulations of the Association, when the Association is not in session. And to make rules for their own government, provided such rules are not repugnant to the Constitution or Decorum of the Association.

ART. 8. It shall be the duty of the Home Mission

Board to work for church extension and church preservation, for which purpose they shall draw on the Executive Committee and various churches for the necessary funds, when the Association is not in session. The Board may make rules and regulations for their own government that are not conflictive with the Constitution or Decorum of the Association.

ART. 9. The Association shall be opened and closed with prayer.

ART. 10. The names of the delegates shall be enrolled and called as often as the Association may deem proper.

ART. 11. No church nor minister shall be received into this Association that refuses to comply with this Decorum or the Ordinances which are given us in the Gospel.

ART. 12. This Decorum may be altered or amended by a majority of the delegates present during any session.

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 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. The pastor 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.

5. 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.

6. 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.

7. 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.

8. When a new clerk is appointed all the books, minutes, etc., belonging to the clerk shall be immediately delivered to him by his successor.

9. 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.

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

11. 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.

12. 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.

13. 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 on deferred business. 7. For new matters of dealing which are to come before the body. 8. For miscellaneous business.

14. 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.

15. 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.

16. 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.

17. 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.

18. 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.

19. 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?"

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

21. 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.

22. 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.

23. 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.

24. No other motion shall be entertained while a question with a move and second is before conference.

25. 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 exempt by the church from voting on either side in peculiar cases.

26. 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.

27. 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.

28. 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.

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

30. No one shall be interrupted while speaking, unless it be necessary to call the speaker to order.

31. 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.

32. Members not in good standing shall not commune, but the administration shall not be deferred on account of any ordinary matter of dealing.

33. Feet-washing may be attended to as the church may see proper.

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

35. 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 17:2; 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 in person of the Messiah and the Mediator for the redemption of the world.—Luke 2:4-12 inclusive; Matt. 1:18-21.

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.—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 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 be finally saved but those who through grace persevere in holiness to the end.—John 8:31; Tim. 1:19; 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 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 5:29; Acts 24:15; Isa. 17; Heb. 9:27.

CIRCULAR LETTER.

WELL-DOING.

"Let us not be weary in well-doing; for in due season we shall reap if we faint not."—Gal. 6: 9.

There is scarcely a position in life where we cannot be of help to our fellow-man, if we will only exert ourselves. There are none so miserable, so fallen in wretchedness, but what are deserving of help. Their course of action may have been such that we find much to condemn; but they are human beings, they are our brethren, they are possessed of an immortal soul, and we are, none of us, so free from wrong doing that we are not bound to bestow on them what success we can.

How much we admire those men and women whose object in life seems to do good. They move through life as a band of music moves down the street, flinging out pleasures on either side through the air to every one far and near that can listen. Some men fill the air with their presence and sweetness as orchards in August days fill the air with perfume of ripe fruit. Some women cling to their own houses like the honeysuckle over the door, yet like it, sweeten all the region with the subtle fragrance of their goodness. There are trees of righteousness which are ever dropping precious fruit around them. There are lives that shine like star beams, or charm the heart like songs sang upon holy days. How great a blessing it is to hold the royal gifts of the soul, so that they shall be music to some and fragrance to others and life to all; it would be no unworthy object to live for, to make the power which we have within us the breath of other men's joys, to scatter sunshine where only clouds and shadows reign, to fill the atmosphere where earth's weary toilers must stand with a brightness which they cannot create for themselves, but which they long for, enjoy and appreciate. Every one has frequent opportunities of rendering assistance, softening the envious, quieting the angry, speaking a good word for them deserving it; to be full of goodness, full of cheerfulness, full of sympathy, full of hope, causes a man to carry blessings of which he is himself as uncon-

scious as a lamp is of its own shining. Such a one moves on human life as stars move on dark seas to bewildered mariners, as the sun wheels in his course bringing all the seasons with him. Nothing is more odious than that selfishness which wraps a man up in himself and his own concerns, and prevents his being moved by the joys or the sorrows of others. Let us then cherish sympathy by attention and exercise; it may improve every man. It is by sympathy that we enter into the concerns of others, that we are moved as they are moved and are never suffered to be indifferent spectators of almost anything which men can do or suffer. Sympathy may be considered as a sort of substitution, by which we are put in to the place of another man, and affected in many respects as he is affected. Sympathy makes us speak the kind word. It is the pleasant word, the kind word, that helps; and the man who has these at his command is sure to be a helper to others in the highway of life, along which so many are travelers. A tear dropped in the silence of a sick chamber often rings in heaven with a sound which belongs not to earthly trumpets or bells.

Why is it that so many people keep all their pleasant thoughts and kind words about others bottled and sealed until death appears on the scene? Then they are indeed free to express them, but the object of them hear them not. Many a person goes through life with scarcely a bright, cheerful, encouraging, hopeful word. Though they may give out their life freely for others, they may not be brilliant or great, but they are faithful. They may have many to discourage them. People may believe they are good, but no one takes the trouble to say a kind word or a pleasant thing, but when they come to die there are many tongues to speak their praise. Many mention their self-denying life, of their humility, pureness of heart. Enough kind things are said over their coffins, or around their graves, to have blessed them and made them happy during all their weary journey through life; but their ears are now closed, and they cannot hear a word that is spoken, their hearts are stilled and cannot be thrilled with grateful sounds. Love blossoms out too late. Kindness comes when the life cannot receive its blessings. Thousands of men breathe, move and live, pass off the

stage of action, and are heard of no more. They did not partake of good in the world, and none were blessed by them, none could point to them as the means of their redemption, not a line they wrote, not a word they spoke could be recalled, and so they perished. Their light went out into darkness, and they were not remembered any more than insects of yesterday.

Now let us learn a lesson from this. Live for something, do good and leave behind you a monument of virtue that the storm of time can never destroy. Write your name in kindness, love and mercy, on the hearts of thousands you come in contact with year by year, and you will never be forgotten. Your name, your deeds will be legible on the hearts you leave behind as the stars on the brow of evening. Good deeds will shine as the stars of heaven.

The whole world calls for new work and nobleness. We are asked to subdue mutiny, discord, wide-spread despair, by manfulness, justice, mercy and wisdom. To make some part of God's creation more faithful, better, a more beautiful place in which to live; to make some human heart a little wiser, more manful, happier, more blessed. Oh, it is a great work. He who diffuses the most happiness and mitigates the most distress within his own circle, is undoubtedly the best friend of his country. Since nothing more is necessary than for all men to imitate his conduct, to make the greatest part of the misery of the world cease in a moment, while then the desire of some is to shine in society, of some to govern, and others to accumulate wealth. Let our great passion alone influence our breasts; the passion which reason ratifies, which conscience approves, which heaven inspires—that of being and doing good.

We are indeed made to be social beings. In all the great joys and conflicts of life we long for the presence and sympathy of friends. It is a kindness to listen to story of joys or sorrows of others, and to show that we rejoice or suffer with them. Such a course multiplies joy, but divides sorrow. The mother whose child has been taken away by death, often feels that no sorrow can be like hers, and for years she will tell the tale of her affliction to all who will hear, to keep the heart from breaking with that pent-up grief. In such cases both the joyful and the afflicted would feel it to be more

than human nature could bear, not to have some one to whom the heart could pour forth its ecstasy of emotion.

There is no feeling more universal in the human heart than that of loveliness. At the outset of life every face glows, every heart has its high hopes, and no one thinks much of the insufficiency of the things of time. But when the middle hour of life draws on, not more than one-third of the faces are still bright—two-thirds are disappointed, and almost discouraged. When the evening comes, not more than one in a thousand carries the light still in his eye and on his forehead. The nine hundred and ninety-nine have fallen by the way. They have tasted the cold selfishness of the world. Their breasts and their sides have been pierced by the jagged points and the poisonous thorns, against which rude winds and struggling waves have dashed them. Why should we not all sweeten, as much as possible by kindness and sympathy, such lives? At a touch from some passing thing, a dew laden bush at morn shakes off the weight of the burden it has borne. So oftentimes grief-laden hearts shake off their burden when touched by some momentary act of kindness that costs its giver little or nothing.

In the heraldry of heaven, goodness precedes greatness. So on earth it is the more powerful. The lowly and the humble may frequently do more in their own limited sphere than the gifted, but all can accomplish much if we will only do the little acts of kindness for which opportunity is given. He who waits to do a great deal of good at once will never do anything. Life is made up of little things. It is very rarely that an occasion is offered for doing a great deal at once.

True greatness consists in being great in little things. The greatest works are accomplished little by little. So if we would do much good in the world we must be willing to do good in little things, in little acts of benevolence, one after another; speaking a good word here and setting a good example always. Some men can never find anything good in other men. They doubt, they insinuate, they scoff at their pretensions. It is far better to search for the good instead of the bad. Let us beware of imitating such natures; they betray their own hearts by their actions. A carrion bird may im-

pose on some as an eagle, but its choice of food betrays it. It is unfortunately true that, if we only desire, we can find much to condemn. Everything in the world is characterized by imperfection. The best people have many faults. The clearest mind only sees through a glass darkly. The purest heart is not without spot. All the intercourse of society, all the transactions of business, all our estimates of human conduct and motive, must be based upon the sad assumption that we cannot wholly trust either ourselves or our fellow-men.

Every heart has its grief, but all men is impelled to good, and in every character there is something to admire. Why not speak of these good points? The world is dreary enough without our searching for the bad.

Let us not be weary in well doing. No matter what our position, we can find something to do that will render the world better and happier for our having lived in it. We must begin and labor steadily, faithfully, hopefully till the work is finished, till the journey of life is over. All those who work in the vineyard are helpers, beautifiers. The Father who patiently takes up the burdens of life, smoothes the paths for the little feet of those whom God has given him and sets before them a good example, is a helper in the vineyard. There is work and enough for all to do. We live in a world which is full of misery and ignorance, and the plain duty of all is to try and make the little corner we can influence somewhat less miserable, and somewhat less ignorant than it was when we entered it. It is a dreadful thing for the human heart to sink in wretchedness and despair. It is worth a life time of exertion to rescue just one from such a fate. If you can you can lie down upon the bed of death and ask, of what avail has been my living? and there comes before you but one instance where you have saved a brother from sinking in despair, such a recollection will be worth more to you than the possession of houses or lands, or gold. But how hard it will be to die and not leave the world any better for one's life in it. We can do more good by being good than in any other way, for there is transcendent power in example. We reform others unconsciously when we walk uprightly. In all stages of life example is the governing motive. By example the child learns what is harmless and what is hurtful, what is pleasing

and what is not pleasing. He observes every person's conduct and endeavors to act as he sees others act, especially those with whom he lives and on whom he depends. The power of example is no less real in youth, manhood, and old age. It takes mankind by the hand in infancy and leads them through all the remaining stages of life. It is the first law they know and the only law they keep; so it gently leads them. We are ever to remember that life is short, that even if we improve all our opportunities we cannot accomplish much. This should not discourage us, but let us press forward more earnestly—do something worth living for, worth dying for. Do something to show that you have a mind and a heart, and a soul within you. That is a good day in which you make some one happy. It is astonishing to know how little it takes to do that. You should feel that the day is wasted in which you have not succeeded in this respect. Let us constantly feel that some day we will come to the end of life, and then one important question for your soul to answer will be, What have I done to help others to lift the care that comes like shadows of the night to weigh down men and women and children all over the land? Happy is he who then can answer that he has done what he could. Let us so live that we can we can all make this answer.

God help us to not weary in well doing, for in due season we shall reap a crown of life that fadeth not away. God help every one who reads this letter to resolve that they too, can lead others by helping them get into the kingdom of heaven; for the Kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Ghost. May God help every one of us.

Yours to help,

R. L. HUNTER.

STATISTICAL TABLE.

CHURCHES, COUNTIES AND STATES.	CLERKS AND THEIR POSTOFFICES.	PASTORS.	Rec by Baptism	Rec on Confession	Rec. by Letter.	Restored.	Dis. by Letter.	Excluded.	Died.	Days of Meeting.	No. of Members
Hickory Grove, Jackson Co., Fla..	J. W. D. Stephens, Bascom, Fla.....	R. L. Hunter.....	8	2		2		1		4	104
Ardilla, Houston Co., Ala.....	J. R. Searcy, Dothan, Ala.....	J. M. Murdock.....					1			1	22
New Pilgrim, Houston Co., Ala....	W. G. Odom, Columbia, Ala.....	G. W. Cherry.....	3	1	2	1				2	27
Prospect, Houston Co., Ala.....	E. B. Green, Dothan, Ala.....	R. L. Hunter.....	5		2		3	1	2	3	126
Rocky Grove, Jackson Co., Fla.. ..	Hetty Baxter, Bascom, Fla	J. M. Murdock.....	6		3				1	4	75
Springfield, Houston Co., Ala.....	M. Nall, Dothan, Ala.....	R. L. Hunter.....	3	2	6					2	58
Howard's Grove, Houston Co., Ala	J. F. Capps, Cottonwood, Ala.....	J. C. Eldridge.....	7	3	5		6	2	4	4	159
Freewill's Rest, Jackson, Co., Fla.	H. G. Green, Bascom, Fla.....	W. J. Murdock.....	7		1				2	1	28
New Harmony, Houston, Co., Ala	A. J. Granger, Granger, Ala	J. M. Murdock.. ..	12		2		3			2	61
Union Springs, Houston, Co., Ala.	D. V. Olive, Ashford, Ala.....	W. J. Mims.....	5		1	3		6		2	63
Damascus, Houston Co., Ala.....	H. H. McNal, Gordon, Ala.....	W. J. Mims.....		1			8	1		1	12
Silver Run, Houston Co., Ala.....	W. T. Riley, Pansey, Ala.....	J. C. Ingram.....			3					3	10
New Life, Houston Co., Ala.....	W. W. Knowles, Address unknown	Unknown.....									
New Hope, Dale Co., Ala.....	Not represented.....	Unknown.....									
Pilchia Pond, Jackson Co., Fla.....	Not represented.....	Unknown.....									

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TABLE OF FINANCES.

CHURCHES.	Paid for Minutes.	For Asso. Purp's.	Paid for Missions	Memorial Fund.	Paid Pastor.	Value of Church.	Value of Property
Hichory Grove.....	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$5.00	\$.15	\$58.30	\$500.00	\$50.00
Ardilla60	.40					
New Pilgrim.....	.75	.75			17.66	250.00	15.00
Prospect	1.50	1.50			35.00	200.00	25.00
Rocky Grove.....	1.00	1.00			27.00	150.00	50.00
Springfield	1.00	1.00					
Howard's Grove....	1.50	1.50				200.00	50.00
Freewill's Rest.....	1.00	.50				100.00	10.00
New Harmony.....	1.50	1.00					
Union Springs.....	1.25	1.00				50.00	25.00
Damascus75	.75					
Silver Run.....	.50	.50					
New Life.....	.50						
New Hope.....							
Pilchia Pond							