

MINUTES

OF THE

Twenty-first Annual Session.

OF THE

STATE LINE

Free Will Baptist Association

CONVENED WITH

SPRINGFIELD CHURCH, HOUSTAN COUNTY, ALA.

OCTOBER 11, 12 AND 13, 1906

OFFICERS:

REV. JEFFERSON D. STEPHENS,	MODERATOR,
J. W. D. STEPHENS, - - -	CLERK,
REV. R. L. HUNTER, - - -	TREASURER.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

G. W. CHERRY, R. L. HUNTER, J. M. MURDOCK, A. HOLLAND, WESLEY TOLER.

HOME MISSION BOARD:

R. G. HATCHER, J. B. PREVATT, J. F. CAPPS, W. H. JENKINS, J. W. CONNER.

The next session of this Association will convene with Silver Run Church, one mile south of Pansey, Houston Co., Ala., on Gordon & Campbellton Road, at 11 o'clock, a. m., on Thursday before the 2nd Sunday in October, A. D., 1907.

AYDEN, N. C.
FREE WILL BAPTIST PRINT.
1907.

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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 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.

PROCEEDINGS

—OF THE—

STATE LINE ASSOCIATION.

The twenty-first annual session of the State Line Free Will Baptist Association convened with Springfield church, Houston Co., Ala., on Thursday at 11 o'clock, a. m., before the 2nd Sunday in October, 1906.

Introductory services were conducted by Rev. G. W. Cherry, followed by Rev. Jefferson D. Stephens—Text: Heb. 12: 2; after which intermission was given until 1: 30, p. m.

Thursday Afternoon Session.

The body reassembled with the former moderator and clerk present.

After singing, the moderator read Heb., 9th chapter. Prayer by the moderator and G. W. Cherry.

Letters from the various churches were called for, handed in and read by J. I. Hatcher and A. Z. Culbreth.

The following is the enrollment of churches and delegates.

1. New Pilgrim—J. F. Thomas.
2. Howard's Grove—J. F. Capps, E. R. Williams, T. D. Adams, J. F. Johnson, Anon Williams.
3. Union Springs—D. V. Olive, J. T. Eubanks, W. H. Jenkins, Arthur Worlds.
4. Hickory Grove—H. T. Tindell, A. Holland, Jessie Hatcher, T. J. Simes, A. Z. Hatcher, J. T. Hatcher, R. G. Hatcher, Willie Hatcher, V. T. Lockhart.
5. Silver Run—A. Z. Culbreth, E. J. Jordan, E. W. King.
6. Springfield—E. Rabon, M. Nall, J. D. Oliver, G. L. Ingram, W. B. Hardy.
7. Rocky Grove—R. T. Baxter.
8. Prospect—M. G. Howell, J. W. Conner, J. B. Prevatt, W. W. Clark, T. C. Newton, E. L. Cherry.

9. New Hope—A. M. Kirkland, Webster Shehing.
10. Freewill's Rest—M. J. Mercer, R. A. Gray, B. S. Brazwill.
11. Damascus—H. D. Robinson.
12. New Harmony—G. C. May, J. J. Granger.
13. Pleasant Home—A. L. Brown, Z. B. Hagins, J. M. Hicks.
14. Friendship—J. D. Marlo, John Forshee.
15. Ardilla—J. R. Searcy.
16. New Life—Nathan Grice.

On motion, the letters were received with the amendment that each church report the standing of their ministers.

Damascus was received by proxy, Bro. H. D. Robinson representing it.

On motion of Bro. A. Holland, that vacancies in the delegations be filled with any members present from their respective church.

Called and corrected the roll. The body then permanently organized by re-electing Jefferson D. Stephens moderator and J. W. D. Stephens clerk.

Invited visiting brethren to seats with us.

Called for petitionary letters; two received, viz; Pleasant Home and Friendship. The former was received. The latter was received Friday morning. They were received under watch care of the body as they had no letter of dismissal from their association, Choctawhatchee.

The following named brethren composed committees:

Temperance—C. M. Whittle, J. D. Marlo, A. L. Brown, J. M. Hicks, T. J. Simes, J. D. Pearce, John Forshee, M. Nall, G. W. Cherry.

Nominations—R. G. Hatcher, M. Nall, E. L. Cherry, B. S. Brazwill, R. T. Baxter.

Finance—J. B. Prevatt, J. F. Capps, G. L. Ingram, W. B. Hardy, A. Z. Culbreth.

Missions—G. W. Cherry, R. A. Gray, T. C. Newton, E. J. Jordan, Willie Hatcher, A. Holland.

Documents—J. I. Hatcher, H. D. Robinson, G. C. May, Jessie Hatcher, H. T. Tindell, J. D. Oliver.

Education—J. G. Harris, C. M. Whittle, Z. B. Hagans, T. J. Simes, E. Rabon, W. W. Clark, A. M. Kirkland.

Sunday Schools—W. S. Cook, J. F. Thomas, J. B. Williams, T. D. Adams, J. T. Eubanks, W. H. Jenkins, Anon Williams.

Obituaries—J. M. Murdock, M. G. Howell, J. W. Conner, A. Z. Hatcher, D. V. Olive, W. F. Haskins, T. J. Simes, J. T. Hatcher.

Suggestions—J. I. Hatcher, G. L. Love, J. A. Givens, A. C. Cobb, W. F. Haskins, A. Z. Culbreth, G. W. Cherry, B. S. Brazwill, W. H. Jenkins, J. B. Prevatt, A. Holland.

Character of Ministers—W. H. Jenkins, J. W. Conner, H. T. Tindell, W. B. Hardy, A. M. Kirkland, M. J. Mercer, J. F. Capps.

Divine Services—A. Holland, J. F. Johnson, Arthur Worlds, J. T. Hatcher, V. T. Lockhart, M. J. Mercer, Webster Shehing.

Adjourned till 9, a. m., Friday.

Friday's Session.

Song, "When I can read titles clear." The moderator read the 37th Psalm. Rev. G. W. Cherry offered prayer. Called roll and read Decorum.

Received the petitionary church, Friendship, under watch care as stated above.

Brethren J. L. Calloway and J. L. Parker were received as correspondents from Southeastern Association. They were given the right hand of fellowship as were also the delegates from the petitionary churches.

On motion of Rev. J. D. Pearce, the committee on documents was granted a short leave of absence.

Rev. G. W. Cherry moved that we have correspondents to sister associations. They are as follows:

Southeastern—G. W. Cherry, J. D. Pearce, J. A. Givens, J. T. Eubanks.

Martin—J. D. Pearce, Geo. Smith, A. Z. Culbreth, E. W. King.

Liberty—J. I. Hatcher.

Choctawhatchee—C. M. Whittle, J. F. Capps.

Midway—J. G. Harris.

Salem—G. L. Love, S. B. Brazwill, R. A. Gray, W. F. Haskins.

Central—G. W. Cherry.

Chattahoochee—With minutes.

The 9 o'clock preaching service was omitted.

On motion of Rev. G. W. Cherry, committee on missions have leave of absence from the body.

The committee on nominations were given till afternoon to report.

Call for report on education. It was read and on motion adopted.

The treasurer read his report and on motion it was adopted.

The report on documents was read by Rev. J. I. Hatcher.

On motion, it was adopted.

Call for report of Home Mission Board: Rev. R. L. Hunter rendered a verbal report, which, on motion, was adopted; and, on motion of Bro. M. J. Mercer, was granted the privilege of furnishing the clerk with a written report.

On motion, the body elected a treasurer. Rev. R. L. Hunter was elected.

On motion, adjourned for preaching. Adjourned till 1:30, p. m.

Afternoon Session.

Reassembled and renewed call for petitionary and corresponding letters.

A corresponding letter from Ardilla was read and received.

Report on finance read and adopted but committee was not discharged.

The report on nominations was read by R. G. Hatcher.

On motion, it was adopted with the amendment that the next session convene with Silver Run instead of Rocky Grove.

The report on obituaries was read by Rev. J. M. Murdock, and, on motion, it was adopted.

Report on character of ministers was read and adopted.

In compliance with the report the moderator appointed Brethren A. Holland, W. H. Jenkins, M. J. Mercer a committee to investigate the case of Rev. J. A. Robinson.

The report on Sunday Schools was read by Rev. W. S. Cook and adopted.

Rev. W. S. Cook and Rev. J. I. Hatcher rendered verbal reports of their evangelical work in the Sunday School cause during the year.

On motion of R. G. Hatcher, Evangelist Rev. E. L. StClaire, D. D., was given a seat of welcome. The Dr. made several timely and instructive talks during the session.

Report on temperance read and adopted.

On motion, the delegation from Friendship was excused for the remainder of the session.

The Circular Letter was read by Rev. J. D. Stephens. Adopted and ordered published in minute.

Report on missions was read by Rev. G. W. Cherry and adopted.

On motion, Rev. W. S. Cook was excused for remainder of afternoon.

The report on suggestions was read by Rev. J. I. Hatcher and was adopted.

Adjourned till 9, a. m., Saturday. Prayer by Rev. E. L. StClaire.

Saturday's Session.

Reassembled. The moderator read the 15th chapter

of St. John. After singing the body humbled in divine supplication with Rev. E. L. StClaire and again with Rev. J. M. Murdock. Extended welcome to visiting brethren.

On motion, the final report on divine services was received and adopted.

Called roll.

Letter from New Harmony read and received.

Miscellaneous Business.

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

The regular order of business was suspended and the following committee was elected singly by a rising vote: Revs. G. W. Cherry, R. L. Hunter, J. M. Murdock and Bros. A. Holland and Wesly Toler.

The following named brethren compose Home Mission Board and were elected in like manner: Bros. R. G. Hatcher, J. B. Prevatt, J. F. Capps, W. H. Jenkins and J. W. Conner.

Letter from New Life read and received.

On motion, the clerk insert in reports of committees the parts relative to Sunday Schools and ministers.

The following named brethren were elected delegates to The Three States Convention: R. G. Hatcher, J. D. Oliver, J. W. Conner, J. W. D. Stephens and E. Rabon.

The convention convenes on Friday before the fourth Sunday in June, A. D., 1907, with Union Springs church, three miles north of Pansey, Ala. Delegates coming from east or west by rail will get off the train at Pansey, Ala.

On motion, supplementary report of finance committee received.

On motion, the association elected a delegate to the National Convention which will meet in 1907. Jefferson D. Stephens was elected, G. W. Cherry, elected alternate.

On motion of Rev. J. M. Murdock, continue business and take parting hand in conclusion of preaching service.

Rev. E. L. StClaire stated that a free scholarship would be given in F. W. B. Seminary at Ayden, N. C.

Bro. R. G. Hatch moved that we send Rev. R. L. Hunter or Rev. J. G. Harris.

On motion, the moderator appointed an Educational Board composed of three ministers, viz; G. W. Cherry, J. I. Hatcher and J. M. Murdock who are to examine applicants and determine who should be sent to the Ayden school.

On motion of Bro. J. T. Eubanks pay clerk \$10.00 for his service.

On motion of R. G. Hatcher, take up subscriptions for educational fund.

Subscriptions:

E. L. StClaire	\$ 1.00	W. H. Jenkins	\$1.00
J. I. Hatcher	1.00	G. W. Cherry	5.00
A. Holland	2.00	J. F. Nowell	5.00
J. M. Murdock	1.00	T. C. Newton	1.00
W. B. Hardy	2.00	J. F. Thomas	1.00
J. S. Conner	1.00	J. W. Conner	3.00
A. Z. Hatcher	1.00	J. D. Stephens	5.00
J. D. Oliver	2.00	J. T. Eubanks	1.00
R. G. Hatcher	10.00	J. W. D. Stephens	5.00
J. M. Hicks	1.00		
Total		\$49.00	

On motion of Rev. G. W. Cherry, the heartfelt thanks of the association were tendered Springfield church and community for the kind hospitality shown us during our stay with them.

Adjourned for divine services. Rev. E. L. StClaire preached a very able and instructive sermon, Rev. J. D. Stephens concluded. A collection of \$8.65 was made for Rev. E. L. StClaire.

Took parting hand and adjourned to meet with Silver Run church, Houston Co., Ala. at 11 o'clock, a. m., on Thursday before the 2nd Sunday in October, 1907.

REV. JEFFERSON D. STEPHENS, Moderator.

J. W. D. STEPHENS, Clerk.

ANNEXED REPORTS.

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

We heartily endorse any movement for the betterment and improvement of our Free Will Baptist people. We urge educating our rising generation so they may all understand the works of Christ, that none be ignorant of the word of truth.

And we should send our children to all the schools that we could for the benefit of our church and our fellow-man and our country and for the Free Will cause.

And we also have colleges in the Free Will Baptist ranks for educating young licensed ministers to take the place of the old ones who may pass away; and we should look out further in the educational question, seeing such benefits of it. J. G. HARRIS, Chairman.

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

We urge the brethren of this association to use the FREE WILL BAPTIST paper and Sunday School literature. We feel that there is greater interest being manifested now than was a year ago, and that the use of this literature has been the cause of it.

We also recommend the Zion Free Will Baptist Gospel Voices as our standard song book.

We also request all of our ministers and pastors to use their influence for the use of the Free Will Baptist Sunday School literature and to get everyone to subscribe for the paper. J. I. HATCHER, Chairman.

NOMINATIONS.—We, your committee, beg leave to submit the following report, to-wit:

We nominate Bro. R. L. Hunter to preach the introductory sermon at the next session and Bro. C. M. Whittle to close.

We nominate G. W. Cherry to write the next Circular Letter.

We nominate the next session of this association to convene with Silver Run church.

R. G. HATCHER, Chairman.

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

We find six deaths in our association, and we, the committee, recommend that their obituaries appear in our minutes.

J. M. MURDOCK, Chairman.

CHARACTER OF MINISTERS.—We, the committee, beg leave to submit the following report, to-wit:

We find all our ministers in good standing so far as we can ascertain, with the exception of one—Bro. J. A. Robinson. We recommend that this body send a special committee to his church to investigate his case.

W. H. JENKINS, Chairman.

SUNDAY SCHOOLS.—We, your committee on Sunday Schools, submit the report as follows:

We find seven Sunday Schools in this association with only 273 students.

W. S. COOK, Chairman.

TEMPERANCE.—We, your committee on temperance, beg leave to make the following report, to-wit:

Whereas, we believe that our best men have quit the intoxicating drink and we pray that the rest will quit, we suggest that all brethren preach and teach such in their churches as it is dangerous of destroying the minds of all people.

C. M. WHITTLE, Chairman.

MISSIONS.—We, your committee on missions, beg leave to make the following report, to-wit:

Whereas, we see but little interest taken in missions in our churches, we suggest that each pastor urge the importance of missions wherever they preach, and also we suggest that the church ask its members to pay the sum of fifty cents each, or more if they wish, and send it to the association for that purpose, and also we suggest that each pastor take up a collection quarterly on missions.

G. W. CHERRY, Chairman.

SUGGESTIONS.—We, your committee on suggestions, beg leave to make the following report, to-wit:

We suggest that this association take more steps with more interest in the General Association.

We suggest that it be the duty of this association to help pay the expenses of its delegates to the General Association.

We suggest that the association urge the churches to take interest in mission cause and get up more for the cause, and we further suggest that the preacher brethren preach one or more mission sermons.

We suggest that pastors in this association appoint one man in each church to superintend collections for missions and raise all the money they can.

J. I. HATCHER, Chairman.

DIVINE SERVICES.—The following report submitted:
Friday, 11, a. m., Rev. C. M. Whittle preach, Rev. G. L. Love close: 3, p. m., Rev. J. M. Murdock preach, Rev. J. G. Harris close. Saturday, 9: 30, a. m., Rev. J. I. Hatcher preach, Rev. W. F. Haskins close; 11, a. m., Rev. E. L. StClaire preach, Rev. J. D. Stephens close.

A. HOLLAND, Chairman.

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

Received for minutes	\$18.50
Received for associational purposes	17.00
Received for missions	16.95
Total	\$52.45

J. B. PREVATT, Chairman.

Treasurer's Report.

Received for minutes	\$13.85
Received for associational purposes	11.90
Received for missions	5.00
Received for educational fund	10.10
Received for memorial	.15
Total	\$41.00

Paid for printing minutes	\$17.00
Paid express on minutes	2.25
Paid postage on minutes	2.15
Paid J. W. D. Stephens, clerk	10.00
Total	\$31.40
By balance on hand	\$32.77

REV. G. L. LOVE, Treasurer.

OBITUARIES.

SUSAN WHITTLE.—Sister Susan Whittle departed this life April 17th, 1906. She was born in 1856 which makes her stay on earth 50 years. She joined the Free Will Baptist church in 1880 at New Hope church, Dale

county, Ala., and lived a consistent member until death. We pray that our loss is her eternal gain. She leaves a husband and 13 children to mourn their loss, but we trust that they will strive to meet her in the sweet bye-and-bye where parting will be no more.

W. J. MURDOCK.—We are pained to chronicle the death of our beloved Brother W. J. Murdock who departed this life June 26th, 1906. He was born March 1st, 1859, in Randolph Co., Ga., and in the year 1890 he moved to Alabama and settled near Ashford where he remained until death. He first connected himself to the Missionary Baptist church when young and remained a consistent member until 1894, then connected himself to the Free Will Baptist church and remained a consistent member until death. He was ordained a minister of the Gospel in 1896. His walk, his ways, his conversations proved that he desired to let his light shine that it might bring others to the fold. May we all live so as to meet him in that perpetual bliss and glory. Peace be to his sleeping dust.

WARREN METCALFE.—Sacred to the memory of Bro. Warren Metcalfe who departed this life June 9th, 1906. He was born March 8th, 1888, and joined the Free Will Baptist church at Hickory Grove in July, 1905, remaining a member there until death. He leaves a number of relatives and friends to mourn his departure, but we hope for all to be re-united in the fair beyond.

SAMANTHA COBB.—It is with sadness that we chronicle the death of our esteemed Sister Samantha Cobb, who departed this life October 20th, 1905. She was born July 17th, 1828, making her stay on earth 77 years, 3 months and 3 days. She leaves 3 sons, 3 daughters 37 grand-children 35 great-grand-children and a host of relatives and friends to mourn their loss. She was a member of the Free Will Baptist church at Ardilla. She had been a member of the Free Will Baptist church for a good many years. She lived a devoted Christian life and we feel that our loss is her eternal gain.

One dear to our hearts is gone,
A voice we love is still,
A place is vacant in our ranks,
Which never can be filled.

GEORGIAN EDMONSON.—Whereas it has pleased God, who doeth all things well, to remove our beloved Sister Georgian Edmonson who was a member of the Free Will Baptist church at Union Springs. She joined the church under the administration of Rev. D. L. Chandler. She departed this life July 3rd, 1906. The deceased leaves a host of friends and relatives to mourn their loss. May our loss be her eternal gain. We believe she is now numbered with the shining host of God. Oh! may God help us all to walk in the foot-steps of Jesus, that we may wear a crown at his right hand. "Blessed are they that die in the Lord."

MATILDA CHANCE.—Our dear beloved Sister Matilda Chance departed this life Dec. 17th, 1905. She was 71 years of age and a faithful member of the Free Will Baptist church. She leaves a faithful husband and five children and several grand-children to mourn their loss. We believe that she is with the angels in heaven at rest where all of the faithful go. Dear friends, pray for her children. May the blessings be with them forever more.

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.....	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.....	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
1906.....	J. D. Stephens.....	J. W. D. Stephens.....	Springfield.....	958

ORDAINED MINISTERS.

NAME.	CHURCH.	Post Office.
Chandler, D. L.....	Springfield.....	Ashford.....Ala.
Cherry, G. W.....	Prospect.....	Dothan.....“
Cook, W. S.....	Union Springs.....	Pansey.....“
Dykes, Calvin.....	Howard Grove...	Ashford.....“
Granger, A. L.....	New Life.....	Granger.....“
Haskins, W. F.....	Hickory Grove...	Woodville.....Fla.
Hatcher, J. I.....	Hickory Grove...	Bascom.....“
Hunter, R. L.....	New Pilgrim.....	Columbia.....Ala.
Ledger, J. M.....	Rocky Grove.....	Cottondale.....Fla.
Love, G. L.....	Howard Grove...	Ashford.....Ala.
Mills, J. B.....	Ardilla.....	Dothan.....“
Mims, W. J.....	Silver Run.....	Gordon.....“
Murdock, J. M.....	Howard Grove...	Ashford.....“
Robinson, J. A.....	Pilchia Pond.....	Marianna.....Fla.
Stephens, J. D.....	Hickory Grove...	Marianna.....“
Swails, F. M.....	Pleasant Home...	Hartford.....Ala.
Whittle, C. M.....	New Hope.....	Geneva.....“

Licentiates.

Cobb, A. C.....	Prospect.....	Dothan.....Ala.
Givens, J. A.....	Springfield.....	Ashford.....“
Harris, J. G.....	Prospect.....	Dothan.....“
Hunter, I. S.....	New Pilgrim.....	Columbia.....“
Lashley, W. H.....	Pilchia Pond.....	Cana.....Fla.
Pearce, J. D.....	New Harmony!!!	Cottonwood...Ala.
Radney, A. B.....	Prospect.....	Webb.....“
Ray, C. G.....	Ardilla.....	Dothan.....“

CONSTITUTION OF 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 transact 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 STATELINE 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 the 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. The church may choose a pastor annually at the last regular conference in 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 they may deem it proper to keep up the connection.

2. When it becomes necessary, a pastor may be chosen at any other time; but if the choice be made at a special conference, the time must be appointed at a monthly meeting of the church.

3. The pastor shall be moderator of the 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 hand but not re-ordained.

5. There shall be two or more deacons in the church, whose duty it shall be to superintend the collection and disbursement of the contributions made by the church for the pastor, etc., and to distribute the bread and wine in the administration of the Lord's Supper.

6. The deacons shall take notice of such members as refuse or neglect to partake of the Lord's Supper and endeavor to ascertain the cause, that the same may be laid before the church in conference if necessary.

7. Some suitable member shall be appointed clerk, and it shall be his duty to do all the recording and other writing pertaining to the business of the church, and to preserve a file of the minutes of the association.

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

9. When the church deems it necessary, a committee of not less than three male members well acquainted with 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. The church shall hold a two days' meeting monthly, embracing Saturday and the Lord's day following, the first of which shall be the regular time of conference.

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 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 whatever who may be generally remiss in attending the meetings of the church according to the covenant (Article 10), shall

be cited to appear in conference and answer for his neglect, but the church may exempt members from this rule if necessary.

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

14. Visiting brethren, as helps called in from sister churches, shall be allowed to speak and make motions or seconds, but not allowed to vote.

15. Any orderly member of the Baptist Church may be received into the church without a letter, when it is made apparent that his Christian character is unimpeachable, and that he has applied for a letter and could not obtain it because he desired to join this or some sister church. All other persons must join by letter or baptism.

16. No member shall be received without the unanimous consent of the members present, but unreasonable objections shall not be valid, and unless withdrawn, the member who makes them shall be liable to be taken under dealing by the church.

17. When the moderator calls for absentees, the clerk shall inform the church what members have been absent from three successive conferences, and the moderator shall appoint some brother or brethren to cite 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 till the 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 the conference

to answer for their conduct.

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 upon any question without a move and a second, and in all important questions the vote shall be taken by rising to the feet.

24. No motion shall be made while a move and second is before the 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 request, may be exempted from voting on either side in peculiar cases.

26. No member shall leave the house during conference without a sufficient cause, not engage in conversation or whispering without being subjected to be called to order by the moderator.

27. All discussions in conference must be conducted with calmness and good feeling; those who speak must rise to their feet and address the moderator, and keep to the point in the debate.

28. No one shall speak more than three times on the same motion without permission from the moderator, nor shall the remarks of anyone be unreasonably long.

29. When the moderator speaks in debate he must nominate some brother moderator in his stead.

30. No one shall be interrupted while speaking, unless it is necessary to call him 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, and the expenses 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 shall be attended to as the church sees proper.

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

35. This Decorum may be amended or altered by the 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 infallible rule of faith and practice.—II. Tim. 3: 16; Romans 15: 4 and 4: 23-44; Peter 1: 21.

3. OF CHRIST.—We believe He is God manifest in the flesh; being in His divine nature the true God, in human nature the true man, uniting 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.—Rom. 1: 16; Phil. 2: 12; Heb. 2: 3.

6. THE FALL OF MAN.—We believe that man was created sinless, but by disobedience fell into a state of sin and condemnation. All his posterity inherited this fallen nature, and all who come to years of accountability will sin and come short of the glory of God, except that they receive salvation through the Lord Jesus Christ.—Gen. 3: 6, 1: 26, 5: 1 and 9: 6; Cor. 11: 7; Rom. 3: 28; Mark 16: 16; Acts 10: 43.

7. THE ATONEMENT.—We believe that Christ in His great compassion offered Himself as a sacrifice in our stead; therefore God desires the salvation of all, and the Gospel invites all, and whosoever will may come and partake of the word of life freely.—I. Cor. 1: 7; Eph. 5: 2; Heb. 2: 9-26; Rom. 5: 15; Rev. 22: 17.

8. OF ELECTION.—We believe that God has not fixed

the future state of man by any unconstitutional 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: 26-28.

9. OF 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: 26-28. 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.

"And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fullness of God." Eph. 3: 19.

As the apex of a pyramid is that point toward which the upright lines of the shaft converge, so our text is the culmination of much of God's teachings toward us in verses 10-19 inclusive.

In these verses the sacred writer gives in outline an inspired sketch of a Christian as God would have him.

The writer would have his readers understand him, and also be enabled to fill out the plan in their lives, so he makes the matter the subject of prayer in verse 14.

"For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ", and prays thus, verses 16-19, "That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man; that Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and height; and to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all fullness of God", that the whole family of Christian believers may be characterized by power, faith, knowledge and love in an unusual degree, as the text says: "With all fullness of God", that is, an overflowing measure. By this is meant that if in order to meet the requirements of God in the Christian life it is necessary to have power, then we must overflow with power, or faith, overflow with faith, or knowledge, overflow with knowledge, or love, overflow with love, "The love of Christ", the redemptive love. In a word, God's plan of a Christian is that a Christian is a believer in Christ, overflowing with these constituent qualities of the Christian life.

This raises the question of resources and may be illustrated by reference to a river, running from the mountains, that carries a large volume of water and having many canals along its course. The river is drawn on to supply these canals branching from the river and laterals from these canals, which for extent and capacity would soon exhaust the river but for vast stores of snow and ice piled up in the basins of great pockets of the mountains, which daily toil of the summer sun distills into countless streams, which flow down and supply the river. The ability of the river to supply the large draughts of water required by the canals was in resources which the river drew upon in the mountains. God is characterized by infinite resources. In Him is an infinite resource of power, knowledge, love. He, therefore, plans that Christians shall overflow with those qualities herein enumerated, namely; power, faith, knowledge love. See the plan unfold under the master-hand of the inspired Apostle, when he says: "Strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man with all the fullness of God."

This means that the entire moral nature comes into

touch with God at conversion and becomes strengthened so that it becomes the expression of the power of God to save. For illustration, in a vast electric car system, each car has a known carrying capacity and means, empty or filled, not only on the level, but up steep grades. Such a car is a unit in a system, and possibly composed of many cars. The company does business on the basis always of more than enough power for all the cars to their united carrying capacity. These cars are "strengthened with might" by coming into contact with that overflow of energy generated at the power house. And each car in the system is expressive of the totality of the company's electric power. So when we become Christians we become such by coming into contact with God through the Holy Spirit, and we become the expression on earth of God's power to save.

The first question any one needs to ask is, "Am I a Christian?" Heaven and hell are fixed according to the answer of that question; but the next question is, "What kind of a Christian am I?" Am I a unit of patient, persistent, unconquerable power? It is said that 40,000,000 protestants are in this country with something like 20,000,000 of these members of the churches. It is impossible to estimate the vastness of the victories of our religion, if each unit were the expression of overflowing power in Christian activity. Paul, however, grasped the dynamic possibilities, and exclaimed in Phil. 4-13, "I can do all things through Christ, which strengtheneth me." This assurance of superlative ability of accomplishment can be cultivated by us if we make use of all the agencies, instrumentalities, ordinances and institutions of our religion, just as a man in the physical world can make himself a hundredfold the master of situations by laying hold on steam, electricity and the like.

The overflow of faith, "That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith . . . with all the fullness of God." Faith will move mountains. The victories of faith are marvelous, but a victorious faith is not a sentiment, nor an enthusiasm, nor an imagination. Victorious faith is conviction in action.

It begins with a man and externalizes itself in achievements. Neptune was discovered by men who believed that planet existed long before it was discovered. Fulton believed that he could propel a boat by steam, and

ceased not till his steam boat was striking the waters of the Hudson with its paddle wheels, and so evoked a new note in the song of the world's industry. The achievements of faith come from the overflow of faith from within to the great world outside.

So in the field of the Christian life, "Faith without works is dead, being alone." Faith is a conviction of truth. Show the wicked, the unbelieving, the worldly people all about you that God reigns, and you believe it; that Christ saves and you believe it, and that the Holy Spirit sanctifies and you believe it! Overflow of faith.

The overflow of knowledge, "That ye being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth and length and depth and height" of God's plan to save "With all the fullness of God."

Any one who responds to God's great passion of redeeming mercy becomes a larger and better being, made so by that very response. Such a one gets knowledge of God, and the relations between God and man, man and God, man and man, no school of philosophy on earth can supply. Think not, in knowledge of divine truth, to live up to the average of your contemporaries, but push the average up and thereby "let your light shine."

The natural man, the man of the world, who lives for this world cannot understand the world in which the Christian lives. They live in different worlds. It is then the knowledge of God that helps to make the Christian, the effective Christian.

"And to know the love of Christ which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fullness of God." What is the greatest thing about God? Not omnipotence, omniscience nor omnipresence, nor yet any of His attributes, but love, for "God is love." What He is must be greater than what He does.

Moreover, what redeems the world? Not philosophy, nor science, nor mere classical or scientific education. But love saves the world. "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son; that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

Jesus Christ came into the world "not to condemn the world, but that through Him the world might be saved." The Holy Spirit makes this offering of divine

love good. And can we not further say that he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God and God in him, and what better do you want? Into the plan of a Christian love enters. It is defined here as the "love of Christ," that is a redemptive desire to "Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature." The plan is not complete by simply hearing the Gospel, but you must obey it, and carry and send it to those who have it not. Thus will you assist in conquering sin and in destroying the work of Satan. An active faith, an abiding love that will win the welcome "Good and faithful servant."

How meet the requirements of the plan of a Christian? By prayer as in verse 14, "For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ." The best life is begun and continued in prayer. By prayer we worship. Through worship God opens to us the door of life. Eternity is ageless, has no gray hairs, no wrinkles chiseled on its regal brow. Whosoever of you will build the temple of life, character and deed, after God's plan, hath an undying continuity with God, the Father.

In connection with the text read James 2: 1. "The faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory." This is a faith of which our Lord is author both in the structure of the Gospel and in the experience of the belief. This faith then is a divine thing. It has always been subject to tests, but these tests have only brought out its enduring qualities and sublime achievements.

I was never more confident than I am today of the need of proclaiming the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ as the only solvent for life's perplexities, disappointments, anxieties, worries, doubts, problems, unrest, lawlessness and the world's sin in the old as well as the young. I am convinced that human wisdom alone is powerless to change the experiences here listed; that no evolutionary process can deliver us from them and throw them off, and that there is no "new theology" to provide a better way than the old way, "The faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory." That faith that conquers everything but God, and wins Him.

"For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ."

JEFFERSON D. STEPHENS.

STATISTICAL TABLE.

CHURCHES, COUNTIES AND STATES.	CLERKS AND THEIR POST OFFICES.	PASTORS.	By Baptism.	On Confession	By Letter.	Restored.	Dis. by Letter.	Excluded.	Died.	No. in 1905.	No. in 1906	Meeting Days	For Minutes.	Asso. Pur.	For Missions.	Paid Pastor.	Value Church	Value of Prop
Ardilla, Houston Co., Ala.....	J. R. Searey, Dothan, Ala.	J. M. Murdock.....			1		1		1	22	17	1	\$.75	\$.75				
Damascus, Houston Co., Ala	Unknown	Unknown								12	7	1	.25					
Freewill's Rest, Jackson Co., Fla..	L. E. Powell, Dellwood, Fla.....	W. J. Murdock.	3	2	3		1			28	37	1	1.00	1.00		35.00	100.00	15.00
Friendship, Geneva Co., Ala.....	John Hatcher, Hartford, Ala	C. M. Whittle.....						7	1		19	1	1.00	1.00				
Hickory Grove, Jackson Co., Fla..	J. W. D. Stephens, Bascom, Fla.....	R. L. Hunter	4	9	2	1	3		1	104	117	4	3.00	2.00	11.45	60.00	500.00	50.00
Howard Grove, Houston Co., Ala	J. F. Capps, Cottonwood, Ala	J. C. Eldridge.....	15	6		1	2	2	1	159	156	4	1.50	2.00			200.00	50.00
New Pilgrim, Houston Co., Ala....	W. G. Odom, Columbia, Ala.	G. W. Cherry								27	26	1	.75	.75			150.00	15.00
New Hope, Dale Co., Ala.....	J. T. Ward, Midland City, Ala	None.....							1		20	3	1.00	1.00				
New Harmony, Houston Co., Ala.	A. J. Granger, Cottonwood, Ala....	J. M. Murdock.....	8	1			1			61	69	2	1.50	1.50				
New Life, Houston Co., Ala.....	A. L. Granger, Granger, Ala.....	J. M. Murdock.....	5								81		.50	1.00	.50			
Pleasant Home, Geneva Co., Ala..	J. M. Hicks, Geneva, Ala	C. M. Whit le.....	1	1	2		8	4			49	2	2.00	1.00				
Prospect, Houston Co., Ala.....	E. B. Green, Dothan, Ala	J. C. Eldridge.....	14		5	3		2		126	144	3	1.50	1.50		65.00	250.00	25.00
Rocky Grove, Jackson Co., Fla....	Hetty Baxter, Bascom, Fla.....	J. M. Murdock.....			2		2			75	75	3	1.00	1.00		18.81	100.00	50.00
Silver Run, Houston Co., Ala.....	W. T. Riley, Pansey, Ala.....	J. C. Ingram.....		6	4		1	3		10	17	3	.75	.75				
Springfield, Houston Co., Ala.....	J. D. Oliver, Ashford, Ala	R. L. Hunter.....	5	1	2		2	1		58	56	2	.75	.75	3.00			
Union Springs, Houston Co., Ala..	D. V. Olive, Ashford, Ala.....	W. J. Murdock.....	1	1	5				1	63	68	2	1.25	1.00			50.00	50.00