

**MINUTES**  
**OF THE**  
**TWENTY-SECOND ANNUAL SESSION**  
**OF THE**  
**STATE LINE**  
**Free Will Baptist Association,**

**CONVENED WITH**  
**ROCKY GROVE CHURCH, JACKSON COUNTY, FLA.,**  
**OCTOBER 10, 11 and 12, 1907.**

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**OFFICERS**

REV. R. L. HUNTER, MODERATOR AND TREASURER  
REV. CALVIN DYKES, - ASSISTANT MODERATOR  
J. W. D. STEPHENS, - - - - - CLERK

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**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

H. G. GREEN, R. G. HATCHER, A. L. GRANGER, J. F. NOWELL,  
J. W. CONNER.

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**HOME MISSION BOARD**

J. M. MURDOCK, A. HOLLAND, E. RABON, O. S. RAGAN, J. I.  
HATCHER.

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The next session of this Association will convene with Pleasant  
Home Church, six miles east of Geneva, Geneva Co., Ala., on  
Lower Chipley Road, at 11 o'clock, a. m., on Thursday  
before the second Sunday in October, A. D., 1908.

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AYDEN, N. C.  
FREE WILL BAPTIST PRINT.  
1908.

# PROCEEDINGS

—OF THE—

## STATE LINE ASSOCIATION.

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The twenty-second annual session of the State Line Free Will Baptist Association convened with Rocky Grove church, Jackson Co., Fla., on Thursday at 11 o'clock, a.m., before the 2nd Sunday in October, 1907.

Introductory services were conducted by Rev. R. L. Hunter, followed by Rev. Calvin Dykes. After which intermission for one and a half hours was given.

### Thursday Afternoon Session.

The body reassembled, and in the absence of Jefferson D. Stephens, the former moderator, was called to order by the former clerk J. W. D. Stephens. After the reading of the 25th Psalm by the clerk, prayer was offered by Revs. G. W. Cherry and J. I. Hatcher.

Rev. Calvin Dykes was made temporary moderator on motion of Rev. G. W. Cherry.

Called for corresponding letters. They were read by Revs. R. L. Hunter and J. I. Hatcher.

The following is the enrollment of the churches and delegates:

Hickory Grove—T. J. Miller, A. Z. Hatcher, Coy B. Green, A. Holland, H. G. Green, D. J. Johnson, R. G. Hatcher, J. J. White, H. T. Tindell, J. T. Hatcher, J. J. Hatcher.

New Pilgrim—W. G. Odom.

Freewill's Rest—L. E. Powell, Benj. D. Braswell, J. T. Braswell.

Rocky Grove—O. W. Baxter, J. A. Baxter, John Daniels, Joe Coonrod, G. W. Elmore, Julius Baxter.

Silver Run—H. L. Addiscn, E. W. King, W. T. Riley.

Howard's Grove—J. F. Capps, Samuel Adams, J. W. Brown.

Union Springs—J. D. Rountree, A. J. Chinell, W. H. Jenkins, J. R. Chandler, J. G. Chandler.

Ardilla—by letter.

New Harmony—J. J. Granger.

New Hope—A. M. Kirkland.

Prospect—M. G. Howell, F. M. Smith, J. W. Conner, R. L. Cheshire.

Springfield—W. B. Hardy, J. M. Ingram, W. T. Carter, W. H. Johnson, W. I. Barrett, J. F. Nowell.

Spring Hill—H. D. Robinson.

New Life—W. H. Ducker, Hansil Grice, James Rodgers, W. J. Henderson.

Shiloh—O. S. Ragan, W. G. Odom.

Pleasant Home—Z. B. Hagans, A. J. Brown.

Pittman Creek—C. C. Harris, J. McDonald.

On motion, the letters were received.

On motion, vacancies in the delegations were filled with any members present from their respective churches.

Called roll.

The body then permanently organized by electing Rev. R. L. Hunter moderator, and re-electing J. W. D. Stephens clerk, and Rev. Calvin Dykes assistant moderator.

The moderator appointed the committee on divine services.

On motion of Rev. G. W. Cherry, adjourned till 8:30, a. m., Friday.

#### Friday Morning Session.

Song "How Firm a Foundation." The moderator read the 7th Psalm. Prayer by Rev. W. F. Haskins.

Called for petitionary letters. Received three viz, Spring Hill, Pitman Creek and Shiloh. Also Pleasant Home which was received under watchcare one year ago. The corresponding letter from New Life was also handed in.

On motion they were received and the delegates from the petitionary churches were given the right hand of

fellowship while singing "Glory Hallelujah in the soul."

On motion of A. Holland called and corrected the roll.

The moderator appointed the various committees:

Temperance—G. W. Cherry, W. H. Johnson, O. S. Ragan, J. D. Rountree.

Nominations—R. G. Hatcher, A. M. Kirkland, J. W. Conner, C. C. Harris.

Finance—J. A. Givens, J. F. Capps, J. W. Brown, M. G. Howell.

Missions—J. M. Murdock, W. J. Henderson, W. F. Haskins, Z. B. Hagins.

Documents—D. L. Chandler, H. T. Tindell, J. T. Braswell, E. W. King.

Education—C. Holland, H. D. Robinson, W. H. Jenkins, A. Z. Hather.

Sunday Schools—H. G. Green, H. L. Adison, Samuel Adams, W. H. Ducker.

Obituaries—J. M. Murdock, W. G. Odom, Coy Green, D. J. Johnson.

Suggestions—J. I. Hatcher, W. I. Barrett, W. B. Hardy, W. T. Riley.

Divine Services—R. G. Hatcher, J. F. Capps, W. H. Jenkins, J. W. Conner, J. J. Granger.

Called roll and read decorum.

Called for correspondents from sister associations. No responses.

After which the following named brethren either volunteered or were appointed correspondents to sister associations.

Salem—J. I. Hatcher, J. M. Murdock.

Martin—J. A. Givens, D. L. Chandler.

Liberty—Calvin Dykes, W. F. Haskins, C. C. Harris.

Midway—R. L. Hunter.

Adjourned for preaching. Adjourned till 2, p. m.

#### Friday Afternoon Session.

Reassembled, and was called to order by the modera-

tor. Prayer by Rev. D. L. Chandler.

On motion, Bro. W. T. Carter was excused because of sickness in his family.

Resumed appointing correspondents to sister associations.

Southeastern—G. W. Cherry, A. M. Kirkland.

Central—Z. B. Hagins.

Chattahoochee—With minutes.

Renewed call for correspondents.

Rev. C. C. Martin responded from the Martin Association. He was given a hearty welcome. The body gave him the right hand of fellowship while singing "On Jordan's Stormy Banks I stand."

Report on documents read and adopted.

Report on education, read and adopted.

Report on obituaries read and adopted.

Report on Sunday Schools read and adopted.

Report on Missions read and adopted.

The report of two years ago was presented by the chairman of the temperance committee as their report. It was adopted.

The finance report was read and received.

On motion of Rev. G. W. Cherry, excused Bro. J. F. Capps.

J. W. Connor was excused on motion of Rev. J. M. Murdock.

Brethren, M. G. Howell, H. D. Robinson, J. R. Rountree, J. R. Rountree, J. R. Chandler, and W. H. Ducker were excused by motions.

Report on nominations was read and adopted.

Adjourned till 8:30, a. m., Saturday. Sang Doxology and received benediction by Rev. C. C. Martin.

#### Saturday Morning Session.

Reassembled, and was called to order by the assistant moderator. After the reading of the 19th Psalm, prayer was offered by Rev. Calvin Dykes.



The circular letter was read by Rev. G. W. Cherry, and on motion it was adopted and ordered published in minute.

The report on suggestions was read and adopted.

The treasurer made his report, and on motion it was adopted:

On motion of R. G. Hatcher, that we help Rev. G. W. Cherry to pay for the new Free Will Baptist church in Dothan, Ala., by taking up subscription and that the delegates work for the collection at their respective churches. The subscription and cash amounted to \$22.25.

The chairman, R. G. Hatcher, of the Home Mission Board, reported that for the lack of funds they had been unable to do anything.

On motion of Rev. J. M. Murdock, that we help Silver Run to rebuild her church house. The cash and subscription amounted to \$25.15.

The next union meeting will be held with Prospect church, commencing on Friday before the fourth Sunday in June, A. D., 1908.

On motion of Rev. J. M. Murdock, that the next session of this body convene with Pleasant Home church.

On motion, adjourned for preaching. Rev. C. C. Martin preached.

#### Saturday Afternoon Session.

Reassembled and engaged in singing, "Don't you want to go?" Prayer by Rev. C. C. Martin.

On motion, the committee appointed at last session to investigate the case of Rev. J. A. Robinson reported.

Two of the committee, Bros. A. Holland and W. H. Jenkins, report that Rev. J. A. Robinson was guilty of adultery according to the information they could get.

On motion of Rev. D. L. Chandler, that we withdraw from Rev. J. A. Robinson, and that the clerk make a

statement of the case, demanding his credentials as a minister and forward to the F. W. B. for publication.

On motion of J. F. Nowell, add the word "house" after the words "value of church" on associational letter.

A collection of \$3.05 was made for Bro. W. F. Haskins, and \$2.20 for Rev. C. C. Martin.

The following subscriptions were given for Rev. J. C. Harris to keep him in school at Ayden, N. C.: G. W. Cherry \$5.00, R. G. Hatcher \$5.00, J. I. Hatcher \$1.00, J. J. White \$1.00, A. L. Granger \$1.00, J. M. Murdock paid 50c., R. L. Cheshire paid 50c., J. F. Nowell paid 50c., J. G. Chandler paid \$1.00, W. B. Hardy paid \$1.00, J. W. D. Stephens paid \$1.00, H. G. Green paid 50c., W. H. Johnson \$1.00, F. M. Smith \$1.00, W. I. Barrett 50c., J. J. Hatcher 50c., D. J. Johnson 50c., W. J. Henderson \$1.00, C. C. Martin \$1.00, A. Holland \$1.00, L. E. Powell \$2.00, T. J. Miller 50c., A. M. Kirkland 50c., R. L. Hunter \$2.00, J. T. Hatcher 50c. Total \$30.00.

On motion of A. Holland, the regular order of business was suspended, and the executive committee, home mission board and treasurer were elected by acclamation.

Executive committee—H. G. Green, R. G. Hatcher, A. L. Granger, J. F. Nowell and J. W. Conner.

Treasurer—R. L. Hunter re-elected.

Home mission board—J. M. Murdock, A. Holland, E. Rabon, O. S. Ragan and J. I. Hatcher.

On motion of A. Holland, appoint educational board.

The moderator appointed A. Holland, J. W. D. Stephens and H. T. Tindell.

On motion of R. G. Hatcher, pay Rev. R. L. Hunter \$5.00 for organizing a new church.

On motion of J. F. Nowell, pay clerk \$10.00 for his services.

On motion of G. W. Cherry, the heartfelt thanks of the association were tendered Rocky Grove church and community for the kind hospitality shown us during our

stay with them.

On motion of J. F. Nowell, the body took parting hand and adjourned to meet with Pleasant Home church, Geneva Co., Ala., at 11 o'clock, a. m., on Thursday before the 2nd Sunday in October, A. D., 1908.

The closing prayer was offered by Rev. C. C. Martin.

REV R. L. HUNTER, Moderator.

J. W. D. STEPHENS, Clerk.

### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES.

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

We heartily endorse any movement for the betterment and improvement of 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 fellowman and our country and for the Free Will Baptist cause and; we also have colleges in the Free Will Baptist ranks for educating young ministers to take the places of the old ones who shall pass away, and we should look out further in the educational question, seeing such benefits of it.

Brethren, we can see so much benefit that can be derived from an educated ministry, we urge that the State Line Association take more interest in education.

A. HOLLAND, 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 a collection quarterly on missions.

J. M. MURDOCK, Chairman.

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

We nominate Rev. Jefferson D. Stephens to preach the



introductory sermon at the next association and Rev. R. L. Hunter to conclude.

We nominate Rev. Calvin Dykes to write the next Circular Letter. R. G. HATCHER, Chairman.

SUGGESTIONS.—We your committee on suggestions make the following report:

We suggest that this associations sustain the Home Mission better than it has in the past.

We suggest that the pastors of every church in this association urge this important movement that this association may be able to fill the demand of its duty.

Respectfully Submitted,

J. I. HATCHER, Chairman.

DOCUMENTS.—We, the committee ask the association to adopt the report of last committee:

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 every one to subscribe for the paper.

D. L. CHANDLER, Chairman.

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 every thing 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 25cts, the U. S. government \$4.40, the railroad company gets \$1.00, the manufacturer gets \$4.00, the drayman gets 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.

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

We find two deaths in our association, and we the committee recommend that their obituaries appear in our minutes. J. M. MURDOCK, Chairman.

SUNDAY SCHOOLS.—We, your committee on Sabbath Schools beg leave to report:

We find that there are but few Sabbath Schools run in the bounds of our association, and we beg and insist that there be more interest taken in Sabbath Schools as it is the means of Scriptural education.

H. G. GREEN, Chairman.

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

Received for minutes	\$19.25
Received for associational purposes,	18.25
Received for missions	.50
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Total	\$38.00

J. A. GIVENS, Chairman.

#### Treasurer's Report.

Received for minutes	\$18.25
Received for associational purposes	17.00
Received for missions	21.95
Received for educational purposes	13.10
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Total, \$70.30

Paid for printing minutes	\$18.00
Paid express and postage on minutes	4.33
Paid J. W. D. Stephens, clerk	10.00
Paid Rev. J. I. Hather for mission work	
by order of executive committee	10.00
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Total 42.33

By balance on hand	\$27.87
Total amount in hands of Treasurer	\$43.43

R. L. HUNTER, Treasurer.

### OBITUARY.

We are pained to chronicle the death of our beloved sister Mattie Wesley Mozley, she was born August 15th, 1862, died April 10th 1907. She leaves a husband and nine children to mourn her departure, but their loss is her eternal gain. All was done for her that could be done. She had the measles.

Pleasant Home has lost a faithful member. May the Lord bless the husband children. May they strive to meet their mother in heaven. She said before she died that she was ready to meet Jesus. Her body was carried to Pleasant Grove church third Sunday.

Her funeral was preached by Bro. J. D. Sowell to a large congregation. Peace be to her sleeping dust.

### 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.....	Anticah.....	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
1907.....	R. L. Hunter.....	J. W. D. Stephens.....	Rocky Grove.....	1099

**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.
Mims, W. J.....	Silver Run.....	Gordon.....“
Murdock, J. M.....	Howard Grove...	Ashford.....“
Pearce, J. D.....	New Harmony...	Cottonwood...“
Sowell, J. D.....	Pittman Creek...	Black.....“
Stephens, J. D.....	Hickory Grove...	Marianna.....Fla.
Swails, F. M.....	Pleasant Home..	Hartford.....Ala.
Whittle, C. M.....	New Hope.....	Ozark.....“

**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.....“
Radney, A. B.....	Prospect.....	Webb.....Ala.
Ray, C. G.....	Ardilla.....	Dothan.....“
Sellers, Otis.....	New Harmony...	Cottonwood...“

**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 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 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 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.

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### 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 rand 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 apparant 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's 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, nor 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 saint's 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 14: 16, Isa. 17; Heb. 9:27.

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### CIRCULAR LETTER.

"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works."—II. Tim. 3: 16, 17.

First, all means the entire Book. We say then it is the way-bill from earth to heaven, yet the Jews will not



have the New Testament, and many of the Gentiles say that we have no use for the Old Testament. Paul says, it is a school-master to bring us to Christ. We take the parallel of Paul's instructions and apply it. We look back to the prophet Isaiah, or we look forward to the coming of the fulfillment of the Scriptures, so we cannot lay any of it down; we must take it all as the way-bill from earth to heaven. We see then it is a gift of God. We were not able to buy it, for it is a precious gift to fallen humanity, for it includes all in sin.

By the disobedience of one man all were made sinners, so by the obedience of one many shall be made righteous by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. This inspiration of God is the power of God unto salvation; unto every one that believeth, first to the Jew, and also to the Gentiles, to the Greeks, and to every kindred and tongue, this Gospel should be preached, for it is the power of God unto salvation unto every one that believeth. So every thing in this dear old Book is profitable, that the man of God may be thoroughly furnished unto good works. We understand the profit or increase that there is in planting a grain of corn. The first year it makes from one to two ears of corn, the second year it makes from one to two hundred barrels of corn; this is profitable. Take anything that is guided by the hand of God and it will be profitable, both spiritually and temporally. Christ hath said that all things work together for good to those that love the Lord. So we see it takes energy, love and cultivation to make this Gospel profitable to ourselves, our children and fallen humanity.

Let us spring out on God's love and promises, so that we may be useful while we live, and whatsoever is right the Lord will give it to us. We should not let time and opportunity pass; if we do, we will be counted with the slothful servant that was cast into outer darkness.

Now, dear brethren, we have the plain teachings of the Bible, and ought to begin to make it profitable to our children, and as we look out at fallen humanity we should not shrink from our duty. Our life is but a shadow and the place that knows us now will soon know us no more.

Why not our denomination prosper as others prosper? It is because a great many of our people have the cart



ahead of the horse and standing in the way of the church. Brethren, let's get the horse ahead of the cart and prosperity will be ours, and some sweet day we can come to the front with other denominations. Let the failures and discouragements of the past be forgotten. The future is before us. Shall it be bright and prosperous, or shall it be dark and discouraging? That is for us to decide, the work is in our hands, and the Lord says, all things are yours. Can we not take God at his word, pray for prosperity in our churches and homes? Then our children will not be seeking some other church for shelter.

Now, dear brethren, we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works. The work-shop is the place where the raw material is taken and the finished product turned out. The Christian is the workman of God, he is not his own, he is bought with a price. Did you ever go through a manufacturing plant? What a busy place it is. The hum of the whirring wheels, the click, grind and pound of the machinery go to show that everything is at work. So beloved, let's feel like we are one of the wheels in the machinery and be submissive to the Spirit of the Lord, and sons and daughters will be born into his kingdom, and we will all wear a crown of righteousness in glory bye-and-bye. Let us march to the city whose builder and maker is God

Yours for the Master,

G. W. CHERRY.

STATISTICAL TABLE.

CHURCHES, COUNTIES AND STATES.	CLERKS AND THEIR POST OFFICES.	PASTORS.	Increase.			Decrease.			No. in 1906.	No. in 1907.	Meeting Days	For Minutes.	As'l Purposes	For Missions.	Paid Pastor.	Value Church	Value Prop'y.
			Baptized	Confession	By Letter.	Restored.	By Letter.	Excluded.	Deaths.								
Ardilla, Houston Co., Ala.....	T. B. Lashley, Ashford, Ala., .....	J. M. Murdock.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	1	.....	17	8	1st	\$ .50	\$ .50	\$	\$ 150.00	\$ 50.00
Freewill's Rest, Jackson Co., Fla..	L. E. Powell, Bascom, Fla.....	W. J. Mims .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	37	35	1st	1.00	1.00	34.00	100.00	20.00
Friendship, Geneva Co., Ala.....	Not Represented.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	19	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Hickory Grove, Jackson Co., Fla..	J. W. D. Stephens, Bascom, Fla ...	G. W. Cherry.....	10	.....	3	4	2	.....	.....	117	130	4th	3.00	3.00	.....	500.00	50.00
Howard Grove, Houston Co., Ala...	G. H. Jordan, Cottonwood, Ala....	J. C. Eldridge.....	22	6	3	1	4	12	1	156	168	4th	2.0	1.00	.....	200.00	75.00
New Harmony, Houston Co., Ala...	A. J. Granger, Cottonwood, Ala....	J. M. Murdock.....	.....	1	.....	.....	2	.....	.....	69	66	2nd	1.25	1.25	.....	.....	.....
New Hope, Dale Co., Ala.....	J. T. Ward, Midland City, Ala ...	C. M. Whittle.....	.....	.....	1	.....	2	.....	.....	20	24	3rd	.75	.75	.....	.....	.....
New Life, Houston Co., Ala.....	A. L. Granger, Granger, Ala.....	J. M. Murdock.....	4	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	1	81	84	4th	.75	.75	.50	150.00	.....
New Pilgrim, Houston Co., Ala....	W. G. Odom, Columbia, Ala .....	R. L. Hunter.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	7	.....	.....	26	18	1st	.50	.50	.....	200.00	25.00
Pittman Creek, Holmes Co., Fla...	W. J. McDonald, Geneva, Ala.....	J. D. Sowell, T. Gilley .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	40	1st	1.00	1.50	.....	.....	.....
Pleasant Home, Geneva Co., Ala...	J. M. Hicks, Geneva, Ala.....	J. C. Ingram.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	3	1	49	43	2nd	1.25	1.50	.....	300.00	30.00
Prospect, Houston Co., Ala. ....	E. B. Green, Dothan, Ala.....	J. C. Eldridge .....	29	7	3	.....	1	1	.....	144	179	3rd	1.50	1.50	66.00	250.00	100.00
Rocky Grove, Jackson Co., Fla.....	W. C. Robinson, Bascom, Fla.....	J. M. Murdock.....	5	.....	2	3	.....	.....	.....	75	70	3rd	1.00	1.00	30.00	100.00	50.00
Shiloh, Houston Co., Ala.....	W. G. Odom, Columbia, Ala ...	R. L. Hunter.....	6	3	9	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	18	4th	.75	.75	.....	.....	.....
Silver Run, Houston Co., Ala.....	W. T. Riley, Pansey, Ala.....	W. J. Mims .....	.....	.....	3	.....	.....	.....	.....	17	23	3rd	.50	.50	.....	.....	.....
Springfield, Houston Co., Ala.....	J. D. Oliver, Ashford, Ala.....	R. L. Hunter.....	9	4	1	1	1	1	1	56	69	2nd	1.00	1.00	.....	.....	.....
Spring Hill, Houston Co., Ala.....	H. D. Robinson, Gordon, Ala.....	J. C. Ingram .....	1	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	8	1st	.50	.25	.....	.....	.....
Union Springs, Houston Co., Ala..	D. V. Olive, Ashford, Ala.....	J. Houston.....	37	9	1	3	1	1	.....	68	116	2nd	2.00	1.50	54.60	1300.00	200.00