

**MINUTES**  
**OF THE**  
**TWENTY-THIRD ANNUAL SESSION**  
**OF THE**  
**STATE LINE**  
**Free Will Baptist Association,**  
**HELD WITH**  
**Pleasant Home Church, Geneva County, Ala.,**  
**OCTOBER 8th and 9th, 1908.**

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**OFFICERS:**

REV. JEFFERSON D. STEPHENS, MODERATOR, Marianna Fla.  
J. W. D. STEPHENS, CLERK, - - - - - Bascom, "  
REV. R. L. HUNTER, TREASURER, - - - - - Columbia, Ala.

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**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.**

M. J. MERCER, Chairman, M. NALL, E. GRICE, CARTER  
HARRISON, G. W. HELMS.

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**HOME MISSION BOARD.**

J. W. D. STEPHENS, Z. B. HAGINS, R. F. JONES, W. H.  
JOHNSON, W. T. RILEY.

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Next session meets with Freewill's Rest Church on Thursday at  
11 O'clock before the Second Sunday in October, 1909, Locat-  
ed about three Miles North-East of Dellwood,  
Jackson County, Fla.

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AYDEN, N. C.  
FREE WILL BAPTIST PRINT.  
1909.

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# PROCEEDINGS

## —OF THE— STATE LINE ASSOCIATION.

The State Line Free Will Baptist Association convened with Pleasant Home church, 6 miles east of Geneva, Ala., on Thursday Oct., 8th, 1903.

The introductory service was conducted by Rev. R. L. Hunter, from 1st Peter 1: 1-10. Rev. J. D. Stephens concluded on subject of prayer.

Prayer by Revs. D. L. Chandler and J. C. Eldridge. Dismissed for dinner.

### Thursday Afternoon Session.

The body assembled and was called to order by the moderator, Rev. R. L. Hunter. The moderator read the 27th Psalm, after which prayer was offered by Bro. Wm. Barnett.

Called for corresponding letters. They were read by Revs. Jefferson D. Stephens and Thos. Gilley.

Names of churches and delegates are enrolled as follows:

Free Wills Rest—M. J. Mercer, J. T. Braswell.

Friendship—J. M. Chance.

Hickory Grove—A. Z. Hatcher, Jessie Hatcher, J. W. D. Stephens, A. Holland, J. T. Hatcher.

Howard's Grove—G. H. Jordan.

New Harmony—D. Guy.

New Hope—A. M. Kirkland, J. H. Dunn, C. R. G. Kirkland.

New Life—W. J. Henderson, Nathan Grice.

New Pilgrim—R. L. Hunter.

Pittman Creek—J. McDonald, C. C. Harris, H. R. Jones, Eddie Sowell, L. Bryant.

Pleasant Home—J. M. Hicks, Z. B. Hagins, A. J. Brown, J. W. Whitehead, S. T. Stewart, Leon Mixon, H. G. Brown, A. L. Brown.

Prospect—J. B. Prevatt, E. Grice, W. B. Stevenson.  
 Rocky Grove—Geo. Elmore, Carter Harrison, J. C. Baxter.

Shiloh—R. F. Jones.

Silver Run—E. W. King, W. T. Riley.

Springfield—W. H. Johnson, E. Rabon, M. Nall, Bunnie Nall.

Spring Hill—By Letter.

Union Springs—D. V. Olive, S. E. Anglin, T. G. Chandler.

On motion, the letters were received and adopted.

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 Jefferson D. Stepens, moderator and re-electing J. W. D. Stephens, clerk.

On motion, adjourned till Friday at 8 o'clock.

#### Friday Morning Session.

Song "There is a fountain filled with blood." And after the reading of the 8th chapter of Romans by the moderator, prayer was offered by Revs. G. W. Cherry and J. D. Sowell.

Howard's Grove, Friendship and New Pilgrim were received without letters. Bro. G. H. Jordan represented Howard's Grove, J. M. Chance, Friendship, and R. L. Hunter, New Pilgrim.

Called roll and read Decorum.

Called for petitionary letters.

The moderator appointed the various committees:

Missions—G. W. Cherry, A. Z. Hatcher, Z. B. Hagins, C. C. Harris, F. M. Swails, Wm. Barnett, Geo. H. Jordan, O. H. Perry.

Temperance—R. L. Hunter, J. C. Eldridge, E. W. King, Wm. Barnett, J. A. Givens.

Documents—J. M. Murdock, E. Rabon, T. G. Chandler, Nathan Grice, Geo. Elmore, J. D. Sowell, W. H. Johnson.

Character of Ministers—J. C. Ingram, A. J. Brown<sup>1</sup>, E. Rabon, A. Holland, J. T. Braswell.

Nominations—D. V. Olive, J. C. Baxter, D. Guy, J. McDonald; Leon Mixon.

Suggestions—D. L. Chandler, W. J. Henderson, J. T. Hatcher, J. M. Hicks, J. W. Whitehead, A. Holland, S. T. Stewart, J. I. Hatcher, J. A. Givens.

Finance—J. B. Prevatt, J. T. Braswell, R. F. Jones, A. M. Kirkland.

Divine Services—A. Holland, M. Nall, Marion Mercer, A. L. Brown, H. G. Brown, W. T. Riley.

Sabbath Schools—J. D. Sowell, L. Bryant, Carter Harrison, A. J. Brown, W. T. Riley, B. Nall, C. M. Whittle, Thos. Gilley, J. M. Chance, W. A. Elmore.

Education—A. L. Brown, Jessie Hatcher, W. H. Johnson, H. R. Jones, E. Grice, J. C. Eldridge, J. C. Ingram.

Obituaries—C. M. Whittle, S. E. Anglin, Eddie Sowell, W. B. Stevenson, C. R. G. Kirkland, J. H. Dunn.

The following brethren responded as correspondents from sister associations:

Martin—Rev. O. H. Perry.

Liberty—W. A. Elmore.

Salem—Rev. J. C. Eldridge, Wm. Barnett, Rev. J. A. Robinson.

Southeastern—Rev. Thos. Gilley, B. F. Pate.

Sang, "On Jordans stormy banks," while extending right hand of fellowship.

The following brethren were enrolled as correspondents to sister associations:

Salem—J. T. Braswell, M. J. Mercer, J. I. Hatcher, A. Holland, G. W. Elmore, J. T. Hatcher, J. D. Stephens, H. C. Harrison.



Meets Thursday night before 1st Sunday in Oct. 1909, near Parramore, Fla.

Liberty—C. C. Harris, J. McDonald, D. L. Chandler, G. W. Cherry.

Southeastern—G. W. Cherry, C. M. Whittle, J. I. Hatcher.

Martin—J. C. Ingram, D. L. Chander, J. M. Murdock, E. W. King, J. T. Braswell, A. Z. Hatcher, R. L. Hunter.

Chattahoochee—By letter.

Midway—R. L. Hunter, J. B. Prevatt, W. H. Johnson.

Central—J. M. Mozley, C. C. Harris.

Cahaba River—G. W. Cherry.

By motion, dispense with the regular order of business and elect the executive committee and Home Mission Board, by acclamation.

On motion of J. B. Prevatt, recind the ruling debaring ministers from being members of the executive committee.

Executive committee: M. J. Mercer, M. Nall, E. Grice, Carter Harrison, G. W. Helms.

Home Mission Board: J. W. D. Stephens, Z. B. Haggins, R. F. Jones, W. H. Johnson, W. T. Riley.

Bro. Wm. Barnett was sick and on motion was excused from the body.

Adjourned for 15 minutes.

Reassembled and resumed business.

The following brethren were elected delegates to the three State Conventions of Ga., Fla. and Ala., which convenes with Hinson church, 4 miles south of Slocomb, Ala., on Friday before the 4th Sunday in June 1909. G. W. Cherry, Jefferson D. Stephens, Z. B. Haggins, D. L. Chandler, R. L. Hunter, E. Rabon, A. Holland, M. J. Mercer, Geo. Elmore, J. I. Hatcher.

Rev. R. L. Hunter, re-elected treasurer.

By motion of Rev. J. C. Ingram the moderator ap-

pointed educational board. Brethren—J. I. Hatcher, J. M. Murdock and J. B. Prevatt compose the board.

On motion of F. M. Swails adjourn for 11 o'clock service and dinner till 1:30 p. m.

#### Friday Afternoon Session.

Song, "In all his appointed ways." The moderator read the 37th Psalm and offered prayer.

Called for reports:

The report on documents read and adopted.

Report on Sunday Schools read and adopted.

Report on obituaries read and adopted.

Report on suggestions read and adopted.

Report on education read and adopted.

None of the executive committee were present to make a report and Bro. A. Holland made a statement, saying that they had not done anything.

On motion the statement was received.

Report of home mission board was made verbally by Rev. J. M. Murdock and A. Holland.

They reported no active work done.

On motion, the report was received.

Report on character of Ministers, read and adopted.

Report on nominations, read and adopted.

Report on temperance, read and adopted.

Rev. D. L. Chandler was the Minister elected to indoctrinate the churches on Doctrine, Discipline and Government of the church.

Rev. Jefferson D. Stephens was elected to preach the doctrinal sermon on Friday at 11 o'clock at our next session.

The report on missions was read and adopted with the amendment that the word "neglect" be substituted for the word "misdemeanor" in the latter clause.

Report on Finance read and adopted.

The treasurer made his report.

On motion, it was adopted.



The circular letter was not present.

On motion pass without one this year.

#### Miscellaneous Business.

On motion, the names of Rev. Calvin Dykes and Rev. G. L. Love were dropped from the ministers list as their church had expelled them.

On motion, we drop Rev. J. G. Harris name, because he had gone to the Midway Association.

By motion of G. W. Cherry we correspond with the Ala. State Convention with three delegates and letter. Delegation: G. W. Cherry, D. L. Chandler, Jefierson D. Stephens.

The next union meeting will convene with Shiloh, church near Columbia Ala., on Friday at 11 o'clock, before the 5th Sunday in May 1909, continuing for three days.

On motion, a committee of five was appointed to arrange a program. Committee: D. L. Chandler, J. I. Hatcher, J. M. Murdock, G. W. Cherry, J. B. Prevatt.

Satisfaction having been made in the case of Rev. J. A. Robinson he was received as a correspondent from the Salem Association, by motion of J. M. Murdock.

On motion, of J. M. Murdock, we pay clerk \$10.00.

On motion, paid Rev. J. C. Ingram \$5.00 for mission work.

A collection was taken for Bro. Wm. Barnett of the Salem, amounting to \$2.15.

A collection for New Harmony church was made amounting to \$1.75.

The amount of \$1.86 was collected for Rev. O. H. Perry who was from the Martin.

On motion of J. M. Murdock, the heartfelt thanks of the association was tendered Pleasant Home church and community for the kind hospitality shown us during our stay with them.

Took parting hand and adjourned to meet with Free-

will's Rest church, Jackson county, Fla., at 11 o'clock, a. m., on Thursday before the 2nd Sunday in October, A. D., 1909.

Prayer by Rev. O. H. Perry. Benediction by Rev. D. L. Chandler.

JEFFERSON D. STEPHENS, Moderator.

J. W. D. STEPHENS, Clerk.

The convention of the Ladies' Home Mission Society of Ala., and Ga., meets with Springfield church, 3 miles north of Ashford, Ala., on Saturday before the 2nd Sunday in June 1909. CLERK.

### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES.

TEMPERANCE—We your committee on temperance report as follows:

We are glad to report that the temperance movement has done a great deal for the betterment of our people both temporally and spiritually and we urge upon our people to do everything they can to further the temperance cause in this country.

Respectfully submitted,

R. L. HUNTER, Chairman.

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

Received for minutes,	\$17.00;
Received for associational purposes,	14.50;
Received for home missions,	.50;
Total,	\$32.00.

J. B. PREVATT, 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 deacons of each church urge upon the 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 for missions.

Also suggest that if a preacher fails to urge this upon the church, that he shall be guilty of a neglect.

G. W. CHERRY, Chairman.

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

We suggest that the moderator or the body appoint some minister to preach and indoctrinate our churches on the doctrine, discipline and government of our churches. And we further suggest that the minister or ministers shall take up collections to pay his expenses and also that he publish his appointments at least one month ahead.

We further suggest that the next session of the Three States Convention shall devote at least one half day to confer with each other and the deacons of same on doctrine and discipline.

We further suggest that the association appoint some suitable minister to preach a doctrinal sermon at each session of this body on Friday at 11 o'clock.

We further suggest that all of our ministers get together and prepare themselves to preach the Bible and its teaching without leaving out any portion.

We further suggest that our ministers be more active in their ministerial duties, and more punctual in attending the association.

We suggest that our churches state in their letter whether or not that their ministers are in good standing.

D. L. CHANDLER, Chairman.

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

We find ten deaths in our association and we, the committee, beg and insist that their obituaries appear in our minutes.

C. M. WHITTLE, Chairman.

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

We find that there are but few Sabbath Schools run in our association and we beg to insist that there be more interest taken in Sunday Schools. And that the pastor of each church see to it that there is a Sabbath School organized and run in their churches.

J. D. SOWELL, Chairman.

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

We nominate Free Will's Rest church for the place for



the next session of this association. We nominate Rev. D. L. Chandler to preach the introductory sermon and Rev. J. M. Murdock to close.

We also nominate Bro. J. D. Stephens to write the next circular letter.

J. I. HATCHER, Chairman.

EDUCATION.—We your committee on Education, beg leave to report as follows:

We urge upon the pastors and members of every church of our association, to put forth every effort possible to get our people educated; and in order to do this we must endeavor to have better schools in every community and Sunday Schools in every church. Furthermore, we would like to have an educated ministry, therefore this association could educate a preacher every year. We trust that our people realize this important work.

A. L. BROWN, Chm.

DOCUMENTS.—We, the committee on documents, beg leave to make the following report, to-wit:

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.

J. M. MURDOCK, Chairman.

CHARACTER OF MINISTERS.—We, your committee on Character of Ministers, beg to make the following report, to-wit:

The character of our ministers is good so far as we can find out.

J. C. INGRAM, Chairman.

ON DIVINE SERVICES.—We, the committee, report as follows:

Friday at 9:30 a. m., preaching in school house by Bro. J. D. Sowell, Bro. J. A. Givens close. At 11 o'clock a. m., in church by Bro. J. C. Eldridge, Bro. G. W. Cherry close. At 3 o'clock p. m., in school house by Bro. J. I. Hatcher, Bro. C. M. Whittle close.

## Treasurer's Report.

Received for minutes, - - - \$1.925,  
 " " Associational purposes, 18.25,  
 " " Missions, - - - 50,

Total, - - - - - \$38.00.

Paid out for printing minutes, - - - \$17.00,  
 " express on minutes - - - 1.70,  
 " postage on minutes to various churches, 2.68,  
 " Clerk, - - - - - 10.00,  
 " R. L. Hunter for mission work, 5.00,

Total, - : - - - - - \$36.38.

Balance on hand, - - - - - 1.62.

R. L. HUNTER, Treasurer.

## ORDAINED MINISTERS.

NAME.	CHURCH.	POST OFFICE.
Chandler, D. L.....	Springfield.....	Ashford..... Ala.
Cherry, G. W.....	Prospect.....	Dothan..... "
Cook, W. S.....	Union Springs.....	Pansey..... "
Givens, J. A.....	Springfield.....	Webb..... Ala.
Granger, A. L.....	New Life.....	Crosby..... "
Haskins, W. F.....	Hickory Grove.....	Woodville..... Fla.
Hatcher, J. I.....	Hickory Grove.....	Bascom..... "
Hunter, R. L.....	New Pilgrim.....	Columbia..... "
Ingram, J. C.....	Pleasant Home.....	Ashford..... "
Ledger, J. M.....	Rocky Grove.....	Cottondale.. "
Mims, W. J.....	Silver Run.....	Gordon..... Ala.
Murdock, J. M.....	Howard Grove.....	Ashford..... "
Pearce, J. D.....	New Harmony.....	Cottonwood, "
Sowell, J. D.....	Pittman Creek.....	Black..... "
Stephens, J. D.....	Hickory Grove.....	Marianna.... "
Swails, F. M.....	Pleasant Home...	Hartford..... "
Whittle, C. M.....	New Hope.....	Ozark..... "

## Licentiates.

Cobb, A. C.....	Prospect.....	Dothan..... Ala.
Hunter, I. S.....	New Pilgrim.....	Columbia..... "
Lashley, W. H.....	Pilchia Pond.....	Cana..... "
Radney, T. B.....	Prospect.....	Webb..... "
Ray, C. G.....	New Harmony.....	Cottonwood "
Sellers, Otis.....	New Harmony.....	Cottonwood "



## OBITUARIES.

Sacred to the memory of our beloved sister, Annie Shinholster, who was a faithful and devoted member of the Free Will Baptist church with us at Union Springs. She joined the church at 13 years old, under the administration of Rev. D. L. Chandler at Silver Run church, she was a faithful member until death.

She was born Sept. the 20th, 1874, and died May the 9th, 1908. She leaves a husband and seven children and a host of relatives and friends to mourn her departure. May we all strive to meet her in heaven, where we believe she has gone. Peace be to her sleeping dust.

A precious one from us is gone,

A voice we loved is still,

A place is vacant in our home,

Which never can be filled.

It is with sadness that I announce the death of Bro. H. C. Daniels. He was born Oct. 12, 1884, died Aug. 2nd, 1908. Bro. Daniels connected himself to the F. W. B. church in Ga. After leaving there he came to Ala. He moved his membership to Union Springs and remained until death. He was a good, faithful member of his church. He leaves a wife and two children and a host of friends and relatives to mourn over him. We trust our loss has been his eternal gain. We believe he is now numbered with the redeemed. May God help his companion to rear her children in a way that will be acceptable with God. Oh! may God help us all to walk in the footsteps of Jesus.

As it has pleased God to call from us, at Prospect, our much beloved clerk and brother, E. B. Greene, who died April the 30th, 1908, he was a consistent member with us. He was born Aug. the 16th, 1871, making his stay here on earth 37 years. He leaves a wife and four children and a host of friends to mourn his departure. May he find rest in the sweet bye-and-bye.

Done by order of the conference, this Oct. 19, 1908.

Sacred to the memory of sister Elizabeth Fullerton, who was a member with us at Hickory Grove. She was born July 9th, 1822, died July 26, 1908. She leaves many relatives to mourn her departure. Peace be to her.

Sacred to the memory of sister Martha Waldon, who was a member with us at Hickory Grove. She was born June 15th, 1826; died July 13th, 1908. She leaves two sons and a number of other relatives to mourn her departure. Peace be to her.

### 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.

### 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 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 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. Conference, 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 members 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 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 any one 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.

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### 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: 2-2.

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 14: 16, Isa. 17; Heb. 9:27.

### 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
1907.....	R. L. Hunter.....	J. W. D. Stephens.....	Rocky Grove.....	1099
1908.....	J. D. Stephens.....	J. W. D. Stephens.....	Pleasant Home.....	1195

# STATISTICAL TABLE.

CHURCHES.	CLERKS AND THEIR POST OFFICES.	PASTORS.	Mem. last rep	Baptized.	Confession	By Letter.	Restored.	By Letter.	Exclusion.	Deaths.	Members 08.	Meeting Days	For Minutes.	As'l Purposes	For Missions.	Paid Pastor.	Value Church	Value Prop'y.
Ardilla.....	Not Represented.....		8															
Freewill's Rest.....	L. E. Powell, Bascom, Fla.....	J. M. Murdock .....	35	1					1		35	1st	.75	1.25		\$ 27.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 25.00
Friendship.....	Mrs. J. D. Forshee, Hartford, Ala.....	No Pastor .....	19								8		.25	.25				
Hickory Grove.....	J. W. D. Stephens, Bascom, Fla. ....	G. W. Cherry.....	130	9	4			4		2	134	4th	1.50	1.50			500.00	100.00
Howard's Grove...	G. H. Jordan, Cottonwood, Ala.....	R. L. Hunter.....	168	6	2	1	3	16			157	4th	1.50	1.50				
New Harmony .....	A. J. Granger, Cottonwood, Ala.....	J. M. Murdock.....	66	6	2	1	2	1			72	2nd	1.25	1.25				
New Hope.....	J. T. Ward, Midland City, Ala.....	J. C. Ingram.....	24	2	3		1	1			29	rd	.75	.75				
New Life. ....	A. L. Granger, Crosby Ala.....	J. M. Murdock .....	84	10		2		1	1	2	89	4th	.50	1.00	.50			
New Pilgrim.....			18										.50	.25				
Pittman Creek.....	J. W. McDonald, Black, Ala. ....	Thos Gilley .....	40	18	2	2	4	1	3		7	1st	1.25	1.00			150.00	25.00
Pleasant Home.....	J. M. Hicks, Geneva, Ala.....	J. C. Ingram.....	43	31	4	2	7	1			83	2nd	1.50				300.00	.50
Prospect.....	J. B. Prevatt, Dothan, Ala. ....	J. C. Eldridge.....	179	16	3	6	2	7		1	200	3rd	2.00	1.00		64 30	500 0	250.00
Rocky Grove.....	W. C. Robinson, Bascom, Fla.....	J. M. Murdock .....	70	3	1			3	2		71	3rd	1.00	1.00		15.00	100 00	50.00
Shiloh .....	R. F. Jones, Columbia, Ala.....	R. L. Hunter.....	18	3	2	4					27	3rd	1.00	.50		15 00	200 00	25.00
Silver Run.....	W. T. Riley, Pansey, Ala.....	W. J. Mims .....	23			1					24	3rd	.50	.50				
Springfield.....	J. D. Oliver, Ashford, Ala.....	R. L. Hunter.....	69	6		1		2			76	2nd	1.00	1.00				
Spring Hill.....	H. D. Robinson, Gordon, Ala.....	J. C. Ingram.....	8								8	1st	.25	.25		6 00		
Union Springs.....	W. E. Glass, Pansey, Ala.....	J. Houston.....	116	9	2	1	2	4	9	3	112	2nd	1.50	1.50		56 00	1300.00	200.00