

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

CONVENED WITH  
**Freewill's Rest Church, Jackson Co., Fla.,**  
**OCTOBER 7th and 8th, 1909.**

**OFFICERS:**

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

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:**

R. G. Hatcher, R. B. Robinson, J. F. Capps, E. Rabon,  
A J Granger.

**HOME MISSION BOARD:**

A. Holland, Chairman, J. W. D. Stephens, W. H. Jenkins,  
Frank Robinson, J. G. Granger.

Next session meets with Silver Run Church, on Thursday before  
the second Sunday in October, 1910. Located South  
of Pansey, Houston County, Ala.

AYDEN, N. C.  
FREE WILL BAPTIST PRINT.  
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# PROCEEDINGS

—OF THE—

## STATE LINE ASSOCIATION.

The twenty-fourth annual session of the State Line Free Will Baptist Association convened with Free Wills Rest Church, three miles North-east of Dellwood, Fla., on Thursday, Oct. 7th, 1909.

The introductory service was conducted by Rev. J. M. Murdock; text, 2nd Tim. 2: 15.

Rev. J. D. Stephens concluded.

Prayer by Rev. J. M. Emanuel.

Adjourned for dinner.

### Thursday Afternoon Session.

The body was called to order by the moderator, Rev. J. D. Stephens.

The moderator read 8th chapter of Heb., after which prayer was offered by Rev. J. I. Hatcher and Rev. J. M. Emanuel.

Letters were called for and read by Revs. R. L. Hunter and J. I. Hatcher.

Names of churches and delegates were as follows:

Free Wills Rest—T. E. Justice, L. C. Messer, J. B. Kern.

Hickory Grove—R. G. Hatcher, A. Holland, H. T. Tindell, J. J. Hatcher, J. W. D. Stephens, A. Z. Hatcher, J. T. Hatcher, J. W. Rodgers, H. G. Green.

Howards Grove—G. H. Jordan, Lester Jordan, Geo. Smith, J. F. Capps, J. W. Brown.

New Harmony—J. J. Granger, W. J. Guy.

New Hope—John Dunn, D. W. Howell,

New Life—Virgie Hart, J. G. Granger, Adolphus Henderson, Sam Howard.

Pittman Creek—M. Rederford.

Pleasant Home—Harlie Brown, Z. B. Haging, W. H. Chandler, Lee Mixon, C. C. Brown.

Prospect—C. L. Hays, R. L. Cheshire, B. M. Striplin, L. D. Davis.

Rocky Grove—W. C. Smith, Thos. Evans.

Shiloh—By Letter.

Silver Run—R. L. Beard.

Springfield—E. Rabon, W. C. Clemons.

Spring Hill—R. B. Robinson, H. E. Fields, J. J. Gray, H. D. Robinson.

Union Springs—E. F. Jordon, E. W. King, A. J. Chinell, J. R. Chandler, W. H. Jenkins, W. E. Glass, A. C. Worlds.

On motion, the letters were received and adopted.

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

The moderator invited visiting brethren to seats with us.

Called for petitionary letters. No response.

On motion, corrected roll.

The various committees were appointed:

Character of Ministers—J. B. Kearns, Z. B. Hagins, J. J. Granger, R. G. Hatcher, R. L. Cheshire.

Divine Services—Z. B. Hagins, J. W. Brown, Lester Jordan, G. H. Jordan, J. J. Hatcher, R. G. Hatcher, J. B. Kearns.

Documents—H. D. Robinson, J. J. Gray, R. L. Beard, A. Z. Hatcher, Virgil Hart, J. M. Emanuel.

Education—R. L. Hunter, J. G. Granger, W. W. Knowls, Harlie Brown, Lee Mixon, E. W. King, A. C. Worlds.

Finance—W. H. Jenkins, R. B. Robinson, T. E. Justice, L. C. Messer.

Missions—J. M. Emanuel, A. Holland, Thos. Evans, J. I. Hatcher, W. W. Knowls, J. T. Hatcher, J. D. Pearce.

Nominations—A. Holland, W. C. Smith, H. E. Fields, J. J. Gray, Thos. Evans, J. J. Granger, W. A. Harper, B. M. Striplin.

Obituaries—J. M. Murdock, J. F. Capps, Geo. Smith,



A. Henderson, S. Howell, C. L. Hays, A. J. Chinell, W. J. Guy, J. W. Rodgers.

Suggestions—J. I. Hatcher, J. M. Emanuel, W. W. Knowls, J. R. Chandler, W. H. Jenkins, W. E. Glass, W. H. Chandler.

Sunday Schools—J. C. Ingram, R. L. Cheshire, E. Rabon, D. W. Howell, E. F. Jordan, C. C. Brown.

Temperance—J. I. Hatcher, L. D. Davis, John Dunn, W. C. Clemons, Z. B. Hagins, W. T. Carter.

Adjourned to meet at 8:30 a. m., Friday.

Prayer by Rev. J. C. Ingram.

Benediction by Rev. J. M. Murdock.

#### Friday Morning Session.

Song, "Jesus Lover of my Soul." The moderator read the 15th Psalm. Prayer by Rev. W. W. Knowls.

The letter from Pittman Creek church was received.

Call for petitionary letters.

Called roll and read decorum.

Call for correspondents from sister associations.

Brethren W. A. Harper, W. W. Knowls, Geo. Phillips and J. P. Conrad of Salem Association were received and given a cordial welcome.

The following brethren were enrolled as correspondents to sister associations:

Salem—J. D. Stephens, J. D. Pearce, J. M. Murdock, J. C. Ingram, L. E. Powell, T. E. Justice, Geo. Smith, J. T. Braswell. Meets on Thursday night before 1st Sunday in Oct., 1910, with Pleasant Home church, 5 miles South of Marianna, Fla.

Martin—E. W. King, R. L. Cheshire, W. T. Carter, Geo. Smith, R. L. Hunter.

Liberty—Z. B. Hagins, Thos. Evans, J. W. Brown, W. C. Smith, J. M. Raderford.

Southeastern—J. D. Pearce, G. W. Cherry, D. L. Chandler, W. H. Chandler,

Chattahoochee—By Letter.

Midway—R. G. Hatcher, R. L. Hunter, J. M. Murdock.

Central—J. M. Redertford, Charlie Brown, Z. B. Hagins.  
Cahaba River—G. W. Cherry.

Called for reports.

Report on Sunday Schools was read and adopted after being spoken to by J. D. Pearce, H. E. Fields, A. Holland, and W. W. Knowls.

Report on Finance was read and adopted.

Report on Education was read and adopted.

Report on character of ministers was read and adopted.

Report on Nominations was read and adopted.

The circular letter was read by Jefferson D. Stephens.

On motion, it was adopted and is to be published.

Report on Documents read and adopted.

Report on Obituaries read and adopted.

Report on Missions read and adopted.

J. W. D. Stephens and Z. B. Hagins of the Home Mission Board, reported verbally that the board had not done anything and the mission fund was very small.

On motion, it was received.

The report was spoken on by Rev. J. M. Emanuel and Rev. J. D. Pearce.

Adjourned for 11 o'clock preaching.

Rev. J. M. Emanuel, D. D., National Evangelist, delivered an able doctrinal sermon.

Rev. Jefferson D. Stephens made a few concluding remarks.

#### Friday Afternoon Session.

Song, "When the Morn Eternal Breaks."

The moderator read the 6th Psalm.

Prayer by Rev. W. A. Harper.

Report of the Executive committee was received and adopted.

Report on Suggestions was read and failed of adoption and by motion, ordered not published.

Report on Temperance was read and adopted.

### Miscellaneous.

By motion of A. Holland, Rev. R. L. Hunter was re-elected treasurer.

The executive committee was elected by acclamation, as follows: R. G. Hatcher, R. B. Robinson, J. F. Capps, E. Rabon, A. J. Granger.

The Home Mission Board was elected by acclamation, as follows: A. Holland, J. W. D. Stephens, W. H. Jenkins, Frank Robinson, J. G. Granger.

On motion, we correspond by delegate and letter with the Triennial Conference which meets A. D., 1910.

Jefferson D. Stephens was elected delegate with R. L. Hunter alternate.

On motion of J. I. Hatcher the question of defraying the expenses of the delegate was placed in the hands of the executive committee.

The treasurer, Rev. R. L. Hunter, was given further time to furnish the clerk his report, as he did not have his report present.

On motion of J. C. Ingram, that we correspond with The World's Sunday School Association which convenes in Washington, D. C., A. D., 1910.

Rev. Jefferson D. Stephens was elected the corresponding delegate.

A collection of \$6.80 was made to help Spring Hill on her church building.

A collection of \$2.45 was given to New Harmony to assist on her church building.

By motion of A. Holland, the clerk was paid \$10.00 for his services.

On motion of A. Holland, the heartfelt thanks of the association was tendered Free Wills Rest church and community for the kind hospitality shown us during our session.

On motion, adjourned to meet with Silver Run church, Houston, Co., Ala., at 11 o'clock, a. m., on Thursday before the 2nd Sunday in October, A. D., 1910.



While singing, "Nearer My God to Thee," the parting hand shake was given, after which we bowed in prayer with Bro. W. W. Knowls.

JEFFERSON D. STEPHENS, Moderator.

J. W. D. STEPHENS, Clerk.

### Report of Committees.

**CHARACTER OF MINISTERS**—We your committee on character of ministers submit the following report, to wit: So far as we your committee can discover, the characters of our ministers are very good.

J. B. KEARNS, Chairman.

**DIVINE SERVICES**—We, the committee on Divine Services beg leave to make the following report, to wit:

Friday at 9:30 a. m., preaching by Rev J. C. Ingram, Rev. J. I. Hatcher close. At eleven o'clock, a. m., a doctrinal sermon by Rev. J. M. Emanuel, Bro J. Stephens close. At 2:30 p. m. Rev. R. L. Hunter to preach, Bro. W. W. Knowls close.

Respectfully Submitted,

Z. B. HAGINS, Chairman.

**DOCUMENTS**—We, the committee on Documents beg to make the following report, to wit:

We urge the brethren of the association to use the FREE WILL BAPTIST paper and Sunday School Literature. We feel that greater interest is being manifested than was a year ago, and that the use of this literature has been the cause of it. We recommend the Union Revival Songs as our standard song book. We also request all of our pastors to use their influence as to the use of the Free Will Baptist Literature in our Sunday Schools.

Respectfully Submitted,

H. D. ROBINSON, Chairman.

**EDUCATION**—We, your committee on education submit the following:

First, That we as an association, begin to devise plans whereby we may get our people interested in education and try to get them to realize the importance of educating their children. At this age of the world there is nothing that confronts us so much as education, and especially do we realize the need of an educated ministry, and we sincerely hope that every preacher of our

association feel the need of it, and that they try to furtherance the cause of education.

Second, We would heartily endorse any and every movement that would tend to aspire our people to higher plains of civilization, and we believe that education is the means to do this, and may the Lord help us to educate our children.

Respectfully Submitted,  
R. L. HUNTER, Chairman.

FINANCE—We, your committee on finance beg to report that we have received from the various churches, as follows:

For associational purposes,	\$16.55
For minutes,	17.50
For missions,	6.35
Total,	<hr/> \$40.40

W. H. JENKINS, Chairman.

MISSIONS—We, your committee on missions beg leave to report: That we see quite a large mission field before our beloved denomination. Both in the cities, towns and hamlets, as well as in the rural districts, of our territory. And we see nothing being done by our churches to further our doctrine in these destitute districts. We therefore insist upon this our State Line Association to appropriate money in a sufficient amount to support some worthy and well qualified minister of our connection, and that we employ said preacher to go out into these places where we are not known as a denomination. And said minister spend his time in introducing our doctrine. And thus compel them to come into our much loved denomination until our house is filled, for we feel assured, that if we do not go out and bring them in, that other denominations will in process of time capture them. God help us to make the needed sacrifice. Let the good work go on and we will be blessed and God will be glorified.

Respectfully Submitted,  
J. M. EMANUEL, Chairman.

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

We nominate Rev. R. L. Hunter to preach the next introductory sermon, and Rev. J. C. Ingram close.

We nominate Rev. J. I. Hatcher to write the next circular letter:

We nominate Silver Run church as the place for the next session of the Association.

Respectfully submitted,

A. HOLLAND, Chairman.

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

We find that there has been ten deaths in our association, and we the committee, ask that their obituaries appear in our minutes.

J. M. MURDOCK, Chm.

SUNDAY SCHOOLS—We, your committee on Sunday Schools, beg to report: We find that there are but few Sunday Schools run in our association and we beg to insist that there be more interest taken in Sunday School and that the pastor and deacons of each church see that there be a Sunday School in their church.

Respectfully submitted,

J. C. INGRAM, Chm.

TEMPERANCE—We your committee on Temperance, make the following report: Whereas, we find intoxicating drink detrimental to the cause of Christianity. We therefore, urge upon our people to give their strength against it in every form that it presents itself.

Respectfully submitted,

J. I. HATCHER, Chm.

#### Treasurer's Report.

Received for minutes,	\$17.00
“ “ Associational purposes,	14.50
“ “ Home missions,	.50
Total received,	<u>\$32.00</u>
Paid out for printing 600 minutes,	\$15.50
“ “ “ Express,	2.00
“ “ “ Postage,	2.70
“ “ “ Clerk,	10.00
“ “ “ Rev. J. C. Ingram,	5.00
Total paid out,	<u>\$35.20</u>
Total balance on hand,	\$23.85.

Respectfully submitted,

R. L. HUNTER, Treas.



**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**—Dear brethren of The State Line Association: As there has not been any business to call our body together since last session, we, your executive committee feel that we have faithfully discharged our duty.

Submitted with love,

M. J. MERCER, Chm.

### **OBITUARY.**

#### **SISTER MATTHEWS.**

She departed this life Sep. 18th, 1909; and was borned July 18th, 1859. Married to H. M. Matthews. November 13th, 1879, she joined the Free Will Baptist church at New Prospect, Henry Co., Ala. She lived a Christian until death. She leaves a husband and seven children to mourn her death, but we feel sure that their loss is her eternal gain.

The burrial service was conducted by Rev. C. M. Whittle to a large attentive congregation. Her sleeping dust will be guarded by the angels from the skies until God shall bid it rise.

### **THE CHURCH'S FOUNDATION.**

Matthew 16 chapter, 13 to 20 verses, and especially "But whom say ye that I am? and Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God, and Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Bar-jona, for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven, and I say unto thee, that thou art Peter and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."

These words can scarcely be understood apart from their context. The author of the Bamton Lectures pointed out that Caesarea was the borderland of the Jew and the Gentile and thus was a fitting place for proclaiming the divinity of Him who came to save, not one race, but all mankind. Later study of our Lord's life revealed the fact that He was at that time truly an exile. It becomes almost selfevident, as we read the Gospels, that our Lord was suffering depression and felt that His work was, to a certain extent, a failure.

The cities, Capernaum and Corazin, where he had preached and labored, were all against Him and you all can recall the sad farewell which he gave to those cities. In the Gospel of St. John we can see evidence that a large number of people who first had believed in Jesus were gradually estranged from Him by His teaching and more especially by His unpopularity. He had been forced to leave His native land and go into more or less seclusion. The words which He spoke to the Syrophoenician woman, "It is not meet to take the children's bread and give it to the dogs," shows the sadness, almost bitter sadness, and when he came to His own "His own received Him not". In one way and another we can see how bitterly He felt and while we have no real picture, yet, never the less, we can, in fancy, see Him, as we read the Gospels, with His little band, going with them through those northern valleys, and we know that it was no figure of speech, but the truth, when He said: "The foxes have holes and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay His head".

Now this confession of Peter marks the end of this period of exile. From that time on He set His face toward Jerusalem. Almost immediately there followed the transfiguration on the Mount, and then He started with His apostles to Jerusalem to suffer and to die. Now this passage reveals deep truth. It reveals the foundation on which Christ built His church. But, as you understand, we must not lose sight of His humanity. The heresy which sees in Christ an unreal, man, one who cannot be touched by our sorrows, our joys or our disappointments, has always been condemned in the councils and by the creeds of the church. Our Lord could not have been truly man if he had not hungered and thirsted and been weary sometimes. He had not sought for help if sometimes He had felt the depression of loneliness and disappointment, though only once did it find expression, namely, on the cross when He said: "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me".

This period of exile, then, was a period of depression. Men had deserted Him possibly by the thousands, the people whom He had cured and taught were gone now. We may not fully understand what His feelings were when He asked His apostles the crucial question:



"Whom do men say that I, the Son of man, am?" If He had any fear, however, it was soon dissipated by the perfect faith of Peter's clear, strong answer: "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God," when replying in His own behalf. Anyone who has ever tried to do real work for humanity and to help forward the kingdom of God have known something of this depression and must have known something of this joy when at least He had found one man who believed in Him and in His message and one who was ready to stand out before the world and confess his faith. Our Lord then, founded his church upon Peter, if you will. He did not found it upon a building, or an army or a treasury. No, but on a warm, rugged, human heart. He said to Peter: "That thou art Peter and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." Those who want to see in this passage a long hieratical line, ever connecting itself with a bishopric, must, I suppose, be allowed to hug their delusion as long as they live. But a sane criticism will always reveal the fact that our Lord was asserting that He would found His church upon living human hearts, upon men who believed in Him, in honor and dishonor, through good report or evil report, in sickness and health, as well as in poverty and exile. Our Lord believed in men and he trusted them. It has been well said of Him that indignation, even anger were spoken of men, but not to condemn. Man, as man, was worthy of respect.

Now that has not been the attitude of the great writers and generals of mankind. Alexander and Caesar regarded men as so many powers to be moved about as they willed. "What are a million souls to me?" boasted Napoleon when he was tormented with the loss of an army, so in philosophy we find the same discrediting of men. But Christ taught a different estimate of mankind to His apostles and St. Paul revered men, even when he saw their sins and rebuked them. The parable of the prodigal son and the epistle to the Romans have been contrasted and has been said of the one that it is tenderly and pathetically human as he rises above his rabbinical law to teach the death of the "Lord and the riches of the goodness of God. There is man's glorious heritage in that he is made in the image

of God. So with all the apostles and true followers of Jesus throughout the world, they have always revered men. They have seen the greatness of man's capacity, even when they have seen the great evil as it is shown in our great cities, which, possibly, in some respects, equal the wickedness of Sodom and Gomorrah. Beneath the external they can see the power of the human heart. Our Lord estimated men at their true worth.

Christ has founded His church and to that church you belong if you are what you should be. You have taken the step which announces that consciously you have come to your full conception of what that church is and that you are members in it. Now Christ wants your heart, He wants your devotion and He wants you to always stand really, purely, honestly, truly and steadfastly for Him. He wants you to be built up as St. Peter expresses it "as lively stones" in His church. It has been said that to suppose that the Christian church could have been founded by any save Jesus Christ would be absurd as to suppose that Strasburg cathedral had been formed through the centuries by the conflux of the dust of the streets. Now it is into that church which you have come and you are to become stones in the building, you are to grow strong by being true and earnest and pure and temperate.

"On this rock I will build my church." The church of Jesus Christ will be stronger to-day and stronger to-morrow if you honestly keep the promises you have made.

#### 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..... "
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... Ala.
Ingram, J. C.....	Pleasant Home.....	Ashford..... "
Ledger, J. M.....	Rocky Grove.....	Graceville.. "

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

#### Licentiates.

Carter, W. T.....	Silver Run.....	Pansy.....	Ala.
Cobb, A. C.....	Prospect.....	Dothan.....	"
Hunter, I. S.....	New Pilgrim.....	Columbia.....	"
Lashley, W. H.....	Pilchia Pond.....	Cana.....	"
Radney, A. B.....	Prospect.....	Webb.....	"
Sellers, Otis.....	New Harmony.....	Cottonwood.....	"
Whitaker, Joseph.....	Howard Grove.....	Ashford.....	"

### CONSTITUTION OF STATE LINE ASSOCIATION.

ARTICLE 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.**

ARTICLE 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 name 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 disbursment 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 PERSEVERENCE.**—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 MEM.
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.....	Freewills Rest.....	803



1901.....	Calvin Dykes.....	J. W. D. Stephens Antioch.....	916
1902.....	Calvin Dykes.....	J. W. D. Stephens Union Springs.....	947
1803.....	J. D. Stephens.....	J. W. D. Stephens Hickory Grove.....	827
1004.....	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.....	1199
1909.....	J. D. Stephens.....	J. W. D. Stephens Freewills Rest.....	1315

### 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.

STATISTICAL TABLE.

CHURCHES	CLERKS AND THEIR POST OFFICES.	PASTORS	Membership last reported	Increase by			Decrease			Membership in 1909	Meeting days	Minutes	Associational purposes	Missions	Paid pastor	Value church	Value church property	Sunday School	
				Baptism	Confession	Letter	Restoration	Letter	Exclusion	Deaths								Pupils enrol'd	Superintendent
Ardilla.....	Not represented.....		8																
Freewills Rest.....	L. E. Powell, Bascom, Fla.....	J. M. Murdock.....	35	1	2	3		2	1	1	40	1	1.00	2.00		100	25		M. J. Mercer.....
Friendship.....	Not represented.....		8																
Hickory Grove.....	J. W. D. Stephens, Bascom, Fla.....	R. L. Hunter.....	134	4				1			136	4	1.50	1.50	6.35	43.55	500	100	52 Priscilla Green...
Howards Grove.....	G. H. Jordan, Cottonwood, Ala.....	J. C. Eldridge.....	157	22		2		2	7	1	165	4	1.50	1.50		55 45	125	75	35 John Stewart...
New Harmony.....	A. J. Granger, Cottonwood, Ala.....	J. M. Murdock.....	72	9	1	1		4		1	82	2	1.25	1.25					
New Hope.....	J. T. Ward, Midland City, Ala., R. 1...	J. C. Ingram.....	29	11	3	1					35	3	1.00	.75					
New Life.....	A. L. Granger, Crosby, Ala.....	J. M. Murdock.....	89	13	1	4	2	3	2	2	106	1	.75	1.25		200		40	W. J. Henderson
New Pilgrim.....	Not represented.....		18																
Pittman Creek.....	W. J. McDonald, Black, Ala., R. 1.....	A. L. Pate.....	70	2	3	3	2	2		2	64	1	1.60			150			
Pleasant Home.....	Harlie Brown, Geneva, Ala., R. 2.....	J. D. Sowell.....	83	19	12	1	4				121	3	1.75	1.00		350	75		
Prospect.....	J. S. Conner, Dothan, Ala., R. 5.....	J. C. Eldridge.....	200	5	3	6		5	4	2	193	3	2.00	1.00		68.50	500	250	
Rocky Grove .....	W. C. Robinson, Bascom, Fla.....	J. M. Murdock.....	71			1		5			74	3	.50	1.50		17.75	250	50	
Shiloh.....	R. F. Jones, Columbia, Ala.....	R. L. Hunter.....	27							1	26	3	.75	.75		200	25	56	W. D. Knowls...
Silver Run.....	W. T. Riley, Ashford, Ala., R. 3.....	W. J. Mims.....	24	5	4	1		5			27	3	.50	.50		250	15	23	J. W. Collins.....
Springfield.....	J. D. Oliver, Ashford, Ala.....	R. L. Hunter.....	76	2	3		1	3			75	2	1.00	1.05					
Spring Hill.....	H. D. Robinson, Gordon, Ala.....	J. C. Ingram.....	8	15			8				32	1	.90	1.00		11.60			
Union Springs .....	W. E. Glass, Pansey, Ala., R. 1.....	J. C. Eldridge.....	112	21	1	3	9	6	4		139	2	1.50	1.50		65.00	1400	200	84 W. S. Cook.....
TOTALS,			1221	129	33	26	26	38	18	10	1315		17 50	16.55	6.35	261.85	4025	815	295