

**MINUTES**  
—OF THE—  
**FORTY-SIXTH ANNUAL SESSION**  
—OF THE—  
**State Line Association**  
**OF FREE WILL BAPTIST**  
**HELD WITH**  
**Howard's Grove Church**

Houston County, Ala., Oct. 8, 1931

**OFFICERS**

J. W. D. Stephens, <i>Moderator</i>	Bascom, Fla.
C. B. Green, <i>Clerk</i>	Bascom, Fla.
R. B. Robinson, <i>Treasurer</i>	Gordon, Ala.

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

J. R. Adams, Ashford, Ala.; A. M. Kirkland, Midland City, Ala.; D. T. Guy, L. C. Mixon, Geneva, Ala.; and J. J. Hatcher, Bascom, Fla.

**HOME MISSION BOARD**

A. J. Granger, Cottonwood, Ala.; J. C. Howell, Dothan, Ala.; R. G. Hatcher, Bascom, Fla.; R. L. Hunter, Columbia, Ala.; John Barnes, Bascom, Fla.

The next session meets with Free Will Rest Church, on Thursday at 11:00 o'clock before the Second Sunday in October, 1932.

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

The State Line Free Will Baptist Association, met with Howard's Grove Church, Houston County, Alabama, in its Forty Sixth Annual Session, Thursday October 8th, 1931. The introductory sermon was preached by Rev. W. T. Hutto. Text: Psalm 82:6,7. He was followed by Rev. G. W. Nobles. Dismissed till 1:30 for dinner.

## THURSDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

The body was called to order by J. W. D. Stephens, the Moderator. He read for a lesson, Ps. 23. Prayer by Rev. K. V. Shutes.

Visting brethren were invited to seats with us. Called for letters from different churches. The moderator appointed Otis Sellers, and A. C. Womack to read the letters.

### *Names of Churches and Delegates*

Spring Hill.—G. W. Jeffcoat, W. J. Godfrey, J. M. Braddock.

Prospect.—J. W. Conner, W. D. Allen, Arch Cherry, J. W. Grice, Cora Allen, Nannie Cherry.

Pleasant Home.—D. R. Hicks, J. W. Helms, L. E. Dixon, Jessie Hicks, Gladys Peacock, Lillie Helms.

Rocky Grove.—Albert Wright, Robert Elmore, Scharlot Baxter.

New Harmony.—A. J. Granger, Ida Granger, Curtis West, Preston Granger, Stella Granger, J. F. Capps, J. C. Howell.

Green Grove.—L. C. Kennington, Pink Henson.

Hickory Grove.—Walter Baxter, Joe W. Ditty, C. B. Green, J. J. Hatcher, R. B. Robinson, Miranda Ditty, Neta Ditty, J. W. D. Stephens, Ruth Ditty.

Magnolia.—L. R. Dassinger, G. R. Dunlap.

Union Springs.—J. W. Chandler, Pennie Knight.

Howards Grove.—J. E. Terry, R. O. Johnson, E. S. Jones, Henry Jordan, Colvin Parson, Calvin Jordan, Nellie Womack, Ruby Collins.

Springfield.—S. G. Carter, B. F. Keel, W. L. Culver, R. E. Rabon, J. C. Brown, J. A. Dickson

Shiloh.—W. G. Odom, Annie Mae Crosby.

Long Branch.—J. A. Thurston, J. D. Thurston, G. L. Thurston.

New Pilgrim.—J. S. Conner, R. R. McGriff, Tom Cravy.

Corinth.—J. T. Roberson, T. A. Payne, Carley Baxley, Ruby Roberson, Unice Carson.

Free Will Rest.—Whit Fowler, C. M. Green, Henry Mercer, J. O. King.

By motion, the letters were received and adopted.

Called for Petitionary letters. One received from Pleasant Ridge.

By motion, delegates received and given the right hand of fellowship.

By motion of R. B. Robinson, dispensed with regular order of business and elected moderator and clerk by tally. J. W. D. Stephens was elected moderator and C. B. Green was reelected Clerk.

Called for correspondents from sister associations. The following were received:

From Chattahoochee.—E. L. Corley.

From Salem.—J. C. Eldrige, K. V. Shutes, D. F. Pelt.

From Midway.—J. L. Tedder.



South Carolina Conference.—T. B. Mellette.

From Mt. Maria.—H. A. Harbin.

By motion these brethren were received and seated in the body.

The following committees were appointed:

- ✓ Divine Services.—E. S. Jones, Calvin Jordan, J. S. Conner.
- ✓ Documents.—G. W. Nobles, D. R. Hicks, Albert Wright, J. W. Chandler, W. S. Cook.
- ✓ Education.—K. V. Shutes, T. B. Mellette, Nellie Womack, J. C. Howell, Maranda Ditty.
- ✓ Home Missions.—J. C. Eldrige, J. N. Barnes, Ruth Ditty, H. A. Harbin.
- ✓ Nominations.—J. T. Roberson, G. W. Jeffcoat, J. S. Conner, C. M. Green.
- ✓ Suggestions.—J. M. Murdock, E. L. Corley, S. G. Carter, Geo. Jones, J. A. Thurston, G. L. Thurston.
- ✓ Sunday Schools.—W. T. Hutto, R. R. McGriff, J. F. Capps, T. A. Payne.
- ✓ Temperance.—L. C. Mixon, Ruby Collins, M. M. Hicks, Gladys Peacock, Annie Mae Crosby, Neta Ditty.
- ✓ Finance.—Otis A. Sellers, Daniel Pelt, Walter Baxter.
- ✓ Obituaries.—J. L. Tedder, Arch Cherry, L. C. Kennington, A. J. Granger.
- ✓ State of Churches and Character of Ministers.—J. J. Hatcher, W. J. Godfrey, G. R. Dunlap, T. B. Mellette, K. V. Shutes, J. C. Inghram, W. T. Hutto.

On motion, we adjourn till 8:30 A. M. Friday. Benediction by Rev. K. V. Shutes.

#### FRIDAY MORNING SESSION

Reassembled with J. W. D. Stephens, the Moderator presiding.

Prayer by Rev. T. B. Mellette. The Moderator read the 2 chapter of Philippians for a morning lesson. Called for corresponding letters. None received. Called for Petitionary letters. None received. Called the roll and read the Decorum.

By motion the moderator appoint the Corresponding delegates to sister Associations:

To Midway.—M. M. Hicks, J. N. Barnes.

To Southeastern.—W. T. Hutto, G. W. Nobles, M. M. Hicks, A. H. Godfrey.

By motion that this committee be empowered and have the right to confer with the committee appointed by the Southeastern Association.

To Salem.—H. J. Mercer, H. W. Keels, G. W. Nobles.

To Liberty.—W. S. Cook, L. C. Mixon.

To Martin.—W. S. Cook, M. M. Hicks, J. A. Webb, E. W. King.

To Chattahoochee.—E. W. King, A. H. Godfrey.

To Union Hill.—L. C. Mixon, J. N. Barnes.

To General Conference.—J. C. Howell, Otis Sellers, J. N. Barnes.

By motion of Arch Cherry, this association pay Bros. J. C. Howell and Otis Sellers \$10.00 for entrance fee to the General Conference.

#### *Report on Education*

(Read and adopted).

At this point a public collection of \$7.38 was taken up for Bro. J. N. Barnes to help pay his expenses to Zion Bible School.

By motion an intermission of ten minutes was given before preaching. Rev. L. C. Mixon preached the 11 o'clock sermon. Dismissed for dinner.

#### FRIDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

After singing a hymn we were called to order by the Moderator. Renewed the call for corresponding letters. One received from Happy Home.

By motion the letter was read and adopted.

By motion the State Line Association endorse Zion Bible School.

By motion the moderator appoint a Finance Committee from the different churches to raise funds for the Zion Bible School.

By motion the Association appoint a Finance Committee from this association to cooperate with the committees from the different churches in raising funds for the Zion Bible School. Committee as follows:

A. H. Godrefy, J. C. Howell, Otis Sellers.

Pitman Creek.—Represented by proxy by L. C. Mixon.

Report on Nominations, Read and adopted.

Report on Obituaries, Read and adopted.

Report on Sunday School, Read and adopted.

Report on Documents, Read and adopted.

Report on State of Churches and Character of Ministers, Read and adopted.

Report on Suggestions, Read and adopted.

Report on Home Missions, Read and adopted.

Report on Temperance, Read and adopted.

Report on Finance, Read and adopted.

Report on Finance, Read and adopted.

Treasurer's Report, Read and adopted.

By motion of K. V. Shutes, the association release Bro. R. B. Robinson of Association funds lost in bank failure.

League Report, Read and adopted.

#### *Miscellaneous Business*

On motion by A. H. Godfrey, we have a Union Meeting.

By motion, we suspend regular order of business and elect by acclamation and retain the same Executive Committee.

By motion, we suspend the regular order of business and elect by acclamation and retain the same Home Mission Board.

By motion, we suspend the regular order of business and elect by acclamation the same Treasurer.

By motion we pay our clerk \$12.00 for his services.

By motion that the association pay Bro. R. B. Robinson \$12.00 for his services as Treasurer.

On motion we retain the same League organizers.

By motion, that the churches send a donation to be used as a Superannuation fund to the Union Meeting, to be held with New Pilgrim Church on the fifth Sunday in May 1932, and that Bros. A. H. Godfrey and W. T. Hutto may be appointed a committee to work out a program, that all churches be notified with amendment, that the different churches take monthly offerings, and that they be notified one month beforehand.

By motion we tender our heart felt thanks to Howard Grove Church and

*Suggested by J. C. Howell  
J. J. Richardson, Rufus Hyman*

community for their kind hospitality shown us during this association.

By motion of W. S. Cook, this association adjourn.

The Association came to a close by singing a hymn. Benediction by Rev. J. M. Murdock.

J. W. D. STEPHENS, Moderator.

C. B. GREEN, Clerk.

## REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

### *Report of Committee on Divine Service*

We your committee appoint Bro. K. V. Shutes to preach at 7 P. M. and Bro. L. C. Mixon, tomorrow at 11 o'clock.

E. S. JONES, Chm.

### *Report of Committee on Documents*

We, your committee, submit the following report:

We ask the pastors and ministers of the State Line Association, to use all divine means possible for the advancement and progress of the Free Will Baptist church. We contend that our churches use our own song books to wit: Service Songs, Sunday School Literature and Free Will Baptist League Literature, all published by the Free Will Baptist Press, Ayden, N. C.

For discipline and church treatise, as indorsed by the General Conference as it is orthodox in the faith and the practice of the Original Free Will Baptist of North America. Also we recommend the Free Will Baptist paper to be read by all loyal church members, and placed in the homes of all Free Will Baptist everywhere. We do not feel that any Free Will Baptist is loyal to his or her denomination, that does not take our church organ, the Free Will Baptist; for these we shall contend and earnestly pray.

G. W. NOBLES, Chm.

### *Report of Committee on Education*

We your committee on Education, submit the following report:

Whereas, we realize the enlightened age in which we live, that the mind is to run on something in order to expand, this causes us to make the following recommendation to this honorable body:

1. That our people use Free Will Baptist literature in their Sunday Schools, Leagues, and Aids. That we patronize our Press, that we take the Free Will Baptist paper printed at Ayden, N. C.

2. That there be a committee appointed at this session in each church to work in the interest of Zion Bible School. That they work through the Leagues, Sunday Schools and Aids, where there is neither of these, that they work in some way. There are six associations within a hundred miles radius of the School. If they will raise \$200.00 in each one, it will put us out this term. With a small offering from each church once a month it will make the amount.

3. That we help Bro. J. N. Barnes, who is attending the Bible School and that an offering be taken for him at this time.

4. That we keep the best literature in the homes to help train the child's mind in the right way.

K. V. SHUTES, Chm.



### *Report of Committee on Missions*

We your committee on Missions beg to report as follows:

That our pastors preach at least two sermons a year on Mission work also take as many as two offerings a year for Missions, to be turned over to the association treasurer, to be used in any kind of Mission work that the board can see fit to use it for. Also we wish to insist on the stronger churches helping the weaker ones to have Sunday Schools and Leagues in them. Also we recommend that our pastors preach the importance of Ladies Aid Societies in our churches, and do all in their power to have Ladies Aids in all our churches.

Respectfully submitted,

J. C. ELDRIGE, Chm.

### *Report of Committee on Nominations*

We your committee on Nominations beg leave to make the following report:

We nominate Free Will Rest for the next session of this association. We also nominate Rev. L. C. Mixon to preach the introductory sermon, and Rev. W. T. Hutto to close.

Respectfully submitted,

J. T. ROBERSON, Chm.

### *Report of Committee on Suggestions*

We your committee on Suggestions beg leave to submit the following:

We suggest that each pastor see to the taking of a collection for the ministers at Zion Bible School once a year. We insist that the deacons look after the donations for their pastor monthly. We suggest that each church endeavor to have a Sunday School twelve months in the year, and urge our pastors and deacons to do their utmost to that end. We further suggest that each church organize and conduct a Free Will Baptist League.

Respectfully submitted,

E. L. CORLEY, Chm.

### *Report of Sunday School Committee*

We your committee on Sunday Schools beg to submit the following:

We are pleased to find that there is an increase in the number of Sunday Schools in our Association, and especially pleased to find quite an increase in the number of Evergreen Sunday Schools. We regret to find, however, that there are still several churches having no Sunday Schools, and as we consider a good Sunday School very essential to the proper progress of the church, we urge and request that all churches endeavor to maintain Sunday Schools. We are glad to note that there seems to exist a greater interest in Sunday School work to day than ever before, and we trust and pray that this will continue till every church in our Association shall have a prosperous Sunday School. Respectfully submitted.

W. T. HUTTO, Chm.

### *Report of Committee on Temperance.*

1. We ask that our People be temperate in all things as the Scripture has said.

2. That we totally abstain from intoxicating drinks, for Prov. 20:1

says, "Wine is a mocker and strong drink is raging, and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise." And if any of our people become deceived and partake of this evil, we recommend that they be dealt with according to the decorum of our church.

3. We therefore ask also that our people be temperate in all things as God said he made all things good, and it was very good.

Respectfully submitted,

H. M. HICKS, Chm.

*Report of Committee on State of the Church and Character of Ministers.*

We, the committee on Character of Ministers and Churches, after due consideration, and having heard the evidence on both sides of the case, do find Free Will Rest Church justified in its action of excommunication of one said criminal, and that we retain the delegation in this session of the Association, and Free Will Rest Church be retained as a church of the Association.

J. J. HATCHER, Chm.

*Report of Obituary Committee*

We, your committee, beg leave to submit the following:

Howards Grove.—Two sisters: Martha Keel, Lucile Brookins.

Prospect.—Two sisters: Jane Oth, Mollie Strickland.

Springfield.—One sister: Mary Wiggins.

Free Will Rest.—Five: T. M. Mitchell, Sisters Mary Jane Basford, Sister Tyson, Malissa Mercer, Viola Jackson.

Hickory Grove.—Bro. J. M. Robinson, Sister Lila Burdeshaw.

Midland City.—One sister, Lou Hall.

Spring Hill.—One brother, Lee Dempcy.

Shiloh.—One sister, Alice Dyson.

Corinth.—Sister Julia Holms.

Rocky Grove.—One Bro., Charley Robinson, Sr.

Pleasant Home.—Two: Bro. S. C. Elmore, Sister Aner Smith.

New Harmony.—One, Rubin Stevenson.

J. L. TEDDER, Chm.

*Report of Committee on Finance*

We your committee on Finance beg leave to submit the following report:

Received for Associational Purposes	-----	\$22.15
Received for Minutes	-----	26.00
Received for Home Missions	-----	1.75
Received for Education	-----	1.50
Total	-----	\$51.40

Respectfully submitted,

OTIS A. SELLERS, Chm.

*Treasurer's Report for 1931.*

Amount brought forward:

For Home Missions	-----	\$93.75
For Associational Purposes	-----	8.25
For Education	-----	10.35
Amount received 1930.		\$112.35

For Associational Purpose -----	\$30.81	
For Minutes -----	28.25	
For Home Missions -----	3.55	
For Education -----	5.25	67.86

Making a total of -----\$180.21

Amount paid out:

Paid Clerk -----	\$12.00	
For Minutes and postage -----	52.12	
For J. C. Howell -----	10.00	
For Maranda Ditty -----	5.00	
For Rev. J. N. Barnes -----	30.00	\$109.12

Of which \$6 81 was borrowed from the Mission fund, Which leaves a balance on hand for:

Home Missions -----	\$55.49
For Education -----	15.60

Total amount on hand -----\$ 71.09

Respectfully submitted,

R. B. ROBINSON, Treas.

*Report of League Committee*

We have organized two Leagues, and have done some Mission Work in the interest of the Leagues. No expenses.

MIRANDA DITTY,

NETA DITTY,

DOLLIE CONNER; Committee.

*Report of F. W. B. League of Hickory Grove Church*

From Oct. 1st, 1930 to October 1st, 1931.

Number on roll -----	48
Average attendance -----	30
Amount spent for Missions -----	\$14.08
Amount spent for Education -----	20.25
Amount spent for literature and to Gen. Secretary -----	19.06

Total amount of dues raised -----\$ 53.39

HUGH YARYBOROUGH, Pres.

ESTHER HATCHER, Sec.

*Report of F. W. B. League of Union Springs Church of Pansey, Ala.*

To State Line Association of Free Will Baptist, convening at Howards Grove Church.

Greetings:

At this joint meeting of the various churches in this section, The Free Will Baptist League of Union Springs Church, at Pansey, Ala., desire to submit the information contained herewith: for your approval, if permissible. We make this request to illustrate the progressiveness of our church:

We have had a league in our church for over a year. As in all organizations, it has not at all times been at its best. There have been times when it ran smoothly, times when it has been difficult for it to continue



climbing, and times when it has been overflowing with interest and enthusiasm; yet at all times there have been willing and able workers who have stood by and helped to overcome every obstacle. However, through all, our finances have been weak.

We have on roll 70 Seniors and 26 Juniors, making a total of 96. During the past year, our F. W. B. L. has paid for its literature, paid \$3.55 for work on church, \$2.00 to League Convention, \$7.15 to E. L. Hughes and sent the General Sec. 65 cts. We have had one visit from the Kinwanis Club, who presented a program.

Our League was represented at the Annual Convention at Tumbleton by four delegates. We have made two visits to near by churches.

Our most recent activity took place Sunday evening, Sept. 27, when we organized a League at Spring Hill Church.

Respectfully submitted,

IDA S. COOK, President.

#### *A League Report*

We have a very progressive F. W. B. League. All the young people seem to be very much interested and eager to take part in whatever they can. The League is in its second year. It was organized on Sept. 26, 1930 by the League of Springfield Church, three miles north of Ashford, Ala. During this time its membership has continued to grow, and we have on roll now 25 Seniors, 15 Juniors, making a total of 40.

J. A. DICKERSON, Chm.

#### *Report of F. W. B. League, Spring Hill Church*

We have organized with the following officers:

Miss Willie Mae Mires, President; Miss Quillen Peterson, Vice Pres.; Hugh Jeffcoat, Sec. and Treas.; Miss Graynella Godfrey, Cor. Sec.; C. A. McMillan, Quiz Leader; H. E. Peterson, Choir Leader.

Group No. 1. 13 members, Miss Daisy Jeffcoat, Captain; Group No. 2. 7 members, Miss Eula Jeffcoat, Captain; Total membership 20.

MISS WILLIE MAE MYRES, Pres.

HUGH JEFFCOAT, Secretary.

#### *Report of Ladies Aid Society, Spring Hill Church*

We have organized with the following officers:

Mrs. Rosa Godfrey, President; Mrs. Minnie Brunson, Vice President; Mrs. C. A. McMillan, Secretary; Miss Elizabeth Brunson, Treas.

We have raised 19.00 to pay our pastor.

MRS. ROSA GODFREY, President.

MRS. C. A. McMILLAN, Secretary.

#### *Church Work of Rev. J. M. Murdock*

.. Served churches, 1; monthly appointments, 1; burial services 3; constituted churches, 1; Helped to ordain deacons, 1; received members, 15; baptized, 12; preached sermons, 33; miles traveled, 678; married couples, 13; money received, \$23.00, expenses, \$9.00.

J. M. MURDOCK.

#### OBITUARIES

In Memory of Bro. S. V. Elmore:—He departed this life Jan. 7, 1931.

He was a member of our church at Pleasant Home. He was loyal to his church. He is gone but not forgotten, and we hope to meet him in the sweet beyond.

L. C. MIXON.

In Memory of Sister Ana Smith:—She was a member with us at Pleasant Home. She died Dec. 9, 1930. She leaves a host of friends and relatives to mourn their loss at her departure.

Yet again we hope to meet thee,  
When the day of life is fled;  
And in heaven to greet thee,  
Where no farewell tears are shed.

L. C. MIXON.

In Memory of Sister Viola Jackson:—Sister Jackson was a member with us at Free Will Rest Church. She was always loyal to her church. She departed this life Sept. 25, 1931. She leaves a husband and two children, and a host of friends to mourn her death. God has called her home, He thought it best. There is a vacant place in our church that can never be filled. David says: "Though she has gone not to return, but we can go to her." She has only fallen asleep in Jesus' arms, to sleep that peaceful sleep till Jesus calls all of the saints around the throne, where we all will live throughout endless ages.

H. W. KEELS.

In Memory of Bro. Tom Mitchell:—He departed this life Nov. 17, 1930. He was a faithful member with us at Free Will Rest Church. He leaves a wife and children and a host of friends to mourn his death. He is sleeping in Jesus' arms. We hope to meet him where we will never grow old, around the bright and shining throne.

H. W. KEELS.

Sacred to the Memory of Millissie Mercer:—She departed this life Aug. 18, 1931. She was a member with us at Free Will Rest Church, and was always loyal to her church. She leaves a husband, twelve children, a mother six sisters, one brother, and a host of friends to mourn her death. There is a vacant place in our church and a home left sad; but we trust that as it is our loss it will be heaven's gain.

She is sleeping in Christ waiting for that crown of life, which is promised to those faithful ones.

Sleep on Sister and take your rest,  
Jesus called you home, He thought it best

May we all strive to meet her in that great beyond, where there will be no tears nor dimmed eyes.

H. W. KEELS.

In Memory of Sister Mary Jane Basford:—She has departed this life. She leaves a husband and children, and friends to mourn her death. She was a member with us at Free Will Rest church for a long time. She is gone but not forgotten, sleeping in a peaceful sleep till Jesus comes to call her home. We pray to meet her in that sweet beyond, where we will not have to say, good-bye.

H. W. KEELS.

In Memory of Sister Tyson:—She was a member with us at Free Will Rest Church for several years. She has departed this life. She leaves loved ones and friends to mourn her death. May her loved ones and friends strive to meet her around the throne of peace, where we will never grow old.

H. W. KEELS.

In Memory of Bro. J. M. Robinson:—He was a member with us at Hickory Grove. He leaves a wife and several children and other relatives to mourn his departure. Peace be to him.

Sacree to the Memory of Sister Lilla E. Burdeshaw:—She was a member with us at Hickory Grove. She leaves a husband and children and many relatives to mourn her departure. Peace be to her sleeping dust.

### CONSTITUTION

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. Providing 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 last associational year, amount of all contributions, the time of the monthly meeting, the membership, ordained and licentiated ministers with their postoffice, and signed by the pastor and clerk of the church with their postoffice.

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 be received into this 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 reason.

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

### DECORUM

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

Art. 2 Moderator shall preside over the deliberations of the Association when in session, preserve order and submit motions and other matters. He shall have the same right to vote as any other member, and, provided the chair is occupied, the right to 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 a 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 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 the 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 the 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 others for the necessary funds when the Association is not in session. The Board makes rules and regulations for their own government that are not in conflict with the Constitution or Decorum of this Association.

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

Art. 10 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 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 the moderator of the church, but when he is absent or does not sit as moderator being present, a suitable brother shall be appointed to sit in his place.

4. The pastor of each church shall have the power to form a presbytery and ordain deacons for the church; also examine ordained ministers who make application to our order, 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, 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 books, etc., belonging to the Clerk shall be immediately delivered to him by his predecessor.

9. When a 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 case 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 a spiritual manner by giving plain and pointed lessons on doctrine, discipline and the rule of holy living.

12. Any church member who shall fail to attend three successive conferences and any member whatsoever who may be generally remiss in attending the meetings of the church according to the covenant (Art. 10) shall be cited to appear in conference and answer for neglect, but the church may exempt members from this rule if necessary.

13. Conference after prayer and divine service shall be opened as follows, and conducted: (1) Inviting brethren to seats. (2) Opening door of church for reception of members. (3) Calling for the reading of the minutes of last conference. (4) Calling for absentees. (5) Acknowledgements. (6) For reference 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 from sister churches shall be allowed to speak and make motions but not 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 other 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 objection shall not be valid and unless withdrawn by the member who makes them be liable to be taken under dealing by the church.

17. When the moderator calls for the absentees, the clerk shall inform the church what members have been absent for three successive conferences, and 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 walks 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 sufficient cause, nor engage in conversation or whispering without being subject to be called to order by the Moderator.

27. All discussions in conference must be conducted with calmness and good feeling. Those who wish to 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 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 duty of each church to attend to the administration of the Lord's Supper and feet washing, at least once a year.

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

34. The 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 Scripture as the Father, Son and Holy Ghost.—Tim. 1:7; Isaiah 45:22; St. John 17:2.

2. THE HOLY SCRIPTURES.—We believe the scriptures of the old and new Testaments were by the inspiration of God and binding on all as our infallible rule of faith and practice.—II Tim. 3:16; Rom. 16:4 and 4:23-24; Peter 1:18-21.



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, united in person 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 fall nature and all who came 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; Rom. 3:23; Mark 16:16; Acts 10:43.

7. 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 whomsoever will may come and partake of the waters of life—I Cor. 1:7; Eph. 5:2; Heb. 2:9; Rom. 5:5; Rev. 22:17.

8. OF ELECTION.—We believe that God has not fixed the future state of men by any unconditional 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; Duet. 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 and 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 Saviour 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 when the resurrection takes place the soul and body will re-unite and form an immortal being; that the righteous will be received into everlasting happiness and that 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.

## ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Organize.
2. Invite visiting brethren to seats with us.
2. Call for letters from different churches.
4. Call for petitionary letters.
5. Elect Officers.
6. Call for correspondence from Sister Associations.
7. Appoint committees.
8. Call the roll and read Decorum.
9. Appoint Correspondents to Sister Associations.
10. Call for report of committees.
11. Call for Treasurer's Report.
12. Call for miscellaneous business.
13. Adjournment.

## ORDAINED MINISTERS

W. S. Cook, Union Springs	Pansey, Ala.
S. V. Elmore, Pleasant Home	Geneva, Ala.
A. L. Williams, Propect	Dothan, Ala.
X W. T. Carter, Hickory Grove	Crosby, Ala.
G. W. Nobles, New Harmony	Dothan, Ala.
A. M. Kirkland, New Hope	Midland City, Ala.
A. L. Granger, New Life	Grangerburg, Ala.
R. L. Hunter, New Pilgrim	Columbia, Ala.
J. C. Ingram, Pleasant Home	Ashford, Ala.
J. M. Murdock, Howard Grove	Ashford, Ala.
J. D. Pearce, New Harmony	Cottonwood, Ala.
J. D. Stephens, Hickory Grove	St. Petersburg, Fla.
Joseph Whitaker, Howard Grove	Ashford, Ala.
J. A. Widner, New Pilgrim	Hilton, Ga.
J. D. Calloway, Pleasant Ridge	Marianna, Fla.
J. C. Mixon, Pleasant Home	Geneva, Ala.
W. W. Termontana, East Pittman	Graceville, Fla.
X J. L. Tedder, Prospect	Hilton, Ga.
M. M. Hicks, Shiloh	Blakely, Ga.
W. T. Hutto, Corinth	Midland City, Ala.
J. J. Burdeshaw, Prospect	Dothan, Ala.
A. H. Gorfrey, Spring Hill	Gordon, Ala.
J. T. Nichols,	Crosby, Ala.

## LICENTIATES

X W. H. Kell, Free Will Rest	Grand Ridge, Fla.
O. O. Adams, Corinth	Midland City, Ala.
Otis A. Sellers, New Harmony	Cottonwood, Ala.
C. A. Lewis, Magnolia	Dothan, Ala.
E. C. Mims, Pleasant Home	Black, Ala.
G. H. Jordan, Howard Grove	Red Level, Ala.
C. E. Shumaker, Howard Grove	Cottonwood, Ala.
X John Barnes, Hickory Grove	Bascom, Fla.

## STATISTICS OF THE ASSOCIATION

The State Line Free Will Baptist Association was Organized  
At Howard Grove Church, Nov. 20, 1886

Year	Moderator	Clerk	Church	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,	Loveweed	448
1891—	R. M. Gray,	Calvin Dykes,	Prospect	339
1892—	R. M. Gray,	Calvin Dykes,	Silver Run	444
1893—	D. M. Chandler,	J. D. Stephens,	Hickory Grove	456
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,	Free Will 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	786
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	1199
1909—	J. D. Stephens,	J. W. D. Stephens,	Free Will Rest	1315
1910—	D. L. Chandler,	J. W. D. Stephens,	Silver Run	1365
1911—	D. L. Chandler,	J. W. D. Stephens,	New Life	1442
1912—	D. L. Chandler,	J. W. D. Stephens,	Pitman Creek	1477
1913—	J. M. Murdock,	J. W. D. Stephens,	Spring Hill	1462
1914—	G. W. Cherry,	J. W. D. Stephens,	Union Springs	1553
1915—	J. D. Stephens,	J. W. D. Stephens,	Hickory Grove	1721
1916—	W. S. Cook,	J. W. D. Stephens,	Rocky Grove	1611
1917—	W. S. Cook,	J. W. D. Stephens,	Long Branch	1715
1918—	W. S. Cook,	J. W. D. Stephens,	Magnolia	1456
1919—	W. S. Cook,	J. W. D. Stephens,	New Hope	1646
1920—	G. W. Cherry,	J. W. D. Stephens,	Prospect	1804
1921—	G. W. Cherry,	J. W. D. Stephens,	Howard Grove	2004
1922—	G. W. Cherry,	J. W. D. Stephens,	Pleasant Home	2043
1923—	J. D. Stephens,	J. W. D. Stephens,	New Harmony	2039
1924—	J. C. Howell,	J. W. D. Stephens,	Corinth	2094
1925—	J. C. Ingram,	J. W. D. Stephens,	Magnolia	2042
1926—	G. W. Cherry,	C. B. Green,	Springfield	2302
1927—	J. J. Burdeshaw,	J. W. D. Stephens,	Hickory Grove	2344
1928—	W. S. Cook,	J. W. D. Stephens,	Prospect	2229
1929—	J. W. D. Stephens,	C. B. Green,	Rocky Grove	2875
1930—	J. W. D. Stephens,	C. B. Green,	Union Springs	2450
1931—	J. W. D. Stephens,	C. B. Green,	Howard Grove	2323



# STATISTICAL TABLE 1931

Churches	Pastors	Clerks and Post Offices	Increased by Baptism	Increased by Confession	Increased by Letter	Increased by Restoration	Decreased by Letter	Decreased by Expulsion	Decreased by Death	Male Members	Female Members	Meeting Days	Associational Purposes	Minutes	Missions	Education	Paid Pastor	Value of Church Buildings	Value of Other Property	No. in S. School	Sunday School Supt. and Post Office
Pleasant Home	L. C. Mixon	H. E. Dixon, Geneva, Ala.	3	2	2	2	2	2	56	105	3	\$ .50	\$ 1.50				\$ 25.00	\$ 500.00	\$1000.00	95	E. W. Burts, Geneva, Ala.
Union Springs	A. H. Godfrey	O. Z. Henderson, Pansey, Ala.	2			4	2		93	118	2	.75	1.00				50.00	1500.00	300.00	94	E. J. Henderson, Pansey, Ala.
Happy Hour	A. H. Godfrey	A. W. Pelham, Crosby, Ala.			1			2	25	21	3	1.00	1.00				30.00		56.00	20	A. W. Pelham, Crosby, Ala.
Pleasant Ridge	J. C. Eldridge	E. W. Granger,	13	3	5				12	24	4		2.00								
Spring Field	A. H. Godfrey	B. F. Keel, Ashford, Ala.	14	1		3	1	1	45	72	1		1.00	.75	.50		52.05	1000.00	500.00	75	S. G. Carter, Webb, Ala.
Rocky Grove	M. M. Hicks	Scharlet Baxter, Marianna, Fla.	10	1	2			1	38	63	2	2.00	1.50				55.00	500.00	150.00		
Green Grove	L. C. Mixon	L. C. Kennington, Caryville, Fla.	9	1	1			8	12	38		1.00	1.00								
Long Branch	J. W. Posey	L. M. Skipper, Coffe Springs, Ala.	1						20	23	3	1.00	1.00				20.00	300.00	75.00		
New Pilgrim	J. N. Barnes	Nina Joe Hunter, Columbia, Ala.							25	34	4	1.00	1.00					500.00	25.00		
Shiloh	M. M. Hicks	W. C. Odom, Columbia, Ala.	5	3	1	1	2	1	34	26	3	1.00	1.00				21.60	1500.00	500.00	84	Geo. Jones, Columbia, Ala.
Free Will Rest	J. A. Hudson	W. M. Wilson, Sneads, Fla.	17	9	8	2	4	4	35	62	4	1.40	2.00					250.00	100.00		J. D. King, Sneads, Fla.
New Harmony	G. W. Nobles	A. J. Granger, Cottonwood, Ala.	4					1	75	101	2	2.00	2.00				53.00	600.00	150.00	48	O. A. Sellers, Cottonwood, Ala.
Magnolia	M. M. Hicks	L. R. Dasinger, Midland City, Ala.	19		9	1	1	1	34	57	2	2.00	1.00				30.00	1000.00	400.00	107	W. E. Kirkland, Midland City, Ala.
Happy Home	J. M. Murdock	H. C. Evans											.50	1.50							
Prospect	T. B. Mellette	G. A. Scott, Dothan, Ala.	2		4	1		2	71	122	3	1.50	1.50				60.35	1000.00	1500.00	50	Cora Allen, Dothan, Ala.
Howard's Grove	J. C. Eldridge	J. R. Adams, Cottonwood, Ala.	9		4	4	2		85	281	3	2.50	2.50				80.00	1000.00	500.00	55	E. S. Jones, Ashford, Ala.
Hickory Grove	J. C. Eldridge	J. W. D. Stephens, Bascom, Fla.	3			1	3	2	129	156	1	2.00	3.00				60.67	1500.00	500.00	63	Walter Baxter, Bascom, Fla.
Corinth	W. T. Hutto	A. J. Benefield, Midland City, Ala.	7	1	1		1	1	44	57	3	1.00	1.00	1.00			40.00	700.00	300.00	84	A. J. Benefield, Midland City, Ala.
Spring Hill	A. H. Godfrey	C. A. McMillian, Crosby, Ala.	12	6			2	1	58	72	4	1.00	1.50			1.00	70.17	1000.00	50.00	35	G. W. Jeffcoat, Gordon, Ala.
			130	25	37	7	19	24	22	891	1432		\$22.15	\$28.00	\$ 1.75	\$1.50				910	