

MINUTES

— of the —

FIFTY-FOURTH ANNUAL SESSION

— of the —

STATE LINE ASSOCIATION

OF FREE WILL BAPTIST

Held With

PLEASANT RIDGE CHURCH

Jackson County, Fla., Oct. 5th, 1939

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OFFICERS

G. W. NOBLES, ModeratorCottonwood, Ala.
C. B. GREEN, ClerkBascom, Fla.
J. W. D. STEPHENS, TreasurerBascom, Fla.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

J. C. Howell, Dothan, Ala.; E. S. Jones, Ashford, Ala.; A. C.
Womack, Cottonwood, Ala.; J. J. Burdeshaw, Dothan
Ala.; G. W. Jeffcoat, Gordon, Ala.

HOME MISSION BOARD

A. H. Godfrey, Crosby, Ala.; Grady Scott, Dothan, Ala.; S. G.
Carter, Mrs. Mary McAllister, Ashford, Ala.;
D. W. Pool, Marianna, Fla.

The next Session meets with Hickory Grove church on
Thursday at 11:00 o'clock before the Second Sunday in October,
1940. Located about three and one half miles Northeast of
Malone, Florida.

Proceedings

The State Line Free Will Baptist Association met with Pleasant Ridge church, Jackson county, Fla., in its fifty-fourth Annual Session on Thursday, October 5th, 1939. The Introductory Sermon was preached by Rev. D. W. Pool, Text: 7th chapter of Joshua. Rev Pool used his subject in an able and inspiring manner.

Recess for lunch and rest.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

The body was called to order by Rev. G. W. Nobles. The Moderator read for our lesson a portion of the 1st chapter of Corinthians.

Visiting brethren were invited to seats with us.

Called for letters from the different churches.

By motion the letters be read; The Moderator appointed Bro. D. W. Pool and Bro. A. J. Granger to read the letters Names of churches and delegates were as follows:—

By motion delegates not present their names be struck from the roll.

Corinth—A. J. Benefield, C. G. Baxley, Mrs. A. J. Benefield, Mrs. Hubert Johnson.

Spring Hill—S. G. Carter, Sis. Mary Roney.

New Harmony—James A. Callaway, Donnie Callaway, A. J. Granger, Erie Pynes.

Hickory Grove—C. B. Green, J. J. Hatcher, J. W. D. Stephens D. J. Johnson, Gertrude Hatcher, Maranda Ditty, Audrey Green.

New Pilgrim—Richard York, Neal Kirkland.

Magnolia—L. E. Hicks, John Paramore, W. T. Weed.

Howards Grove—L. C. Gilispie, E. S. Jones, A. J. Dickerson, R. O. Johnson, Sisters S. M. Womack, Carmila Alexander, Colie F'ohen.

Prospect—T. E. Cherry, C. G. Scott, Edd Battle, M. L. Howell, Beatrice Howell, Dollie Scott, Lula Arnold.

Spring Hill—Roy W. Conner, J. S. Conner, Mrs. J. S. Conner.

Union Springs—J. J. Anglin.

Grangerburg—Georgia West.

Rockey Grove—W. N. Murdock, Dicy Murdock, Rubie Murdock.

Pleasant Ridge—E. W. Granger, Tom Hall, Elmer Monday, Anna Smith; Jessie West, Mamie Pool.

Pleasant Home—Malcom Coleman, J. R. Robinson, Vernell Gillman, Clarence Mixon.

New Hope—Harvey Sewell.

On motion the letters were read and adopted and the delegates were seated in the body.

Called for Petitionary Letters, none received.

Called for Correspondents from Sister Associations. They were as follows:

Midway—A. L. Williams, T. B. Mellette, J. B. Lovering.

Visitor—Robert Ward from Toe River Association, North Carolina.

Salem—Rev. J. C. Eldridge, J. C. Watson, J. W. Barnes J. L. Nichols.

Martin—Rev. W. H. Ely.

Liberty—Rev. Floyd Cherry, John M. Rish.

By motion these brethren from Sister Associations were given the right hand of fellowship and seated in the body.

By motion the Moderator appointed the different committees. they were as follows:

By motion Sunday School Report be changed to Auxiliary Report.

Report On Auiliaries—Pleasant Ridge.

Report On Temperance—Shiloh.

Report On Suggestions—Corinth.

Report On Documents—Pleasant Home.

Report On Obituaries—Long Branch.

Report On Education—Grangeburg.

Report On Nominations—Howards Grove.

Report on Finance—New Harmony.

Report On Home Missions—Hickory Grove.

By motion Committee on State Churches and Character of Minister be appointed by the Moderator, namely: J. W. D. Stephens, S. G. Carter, A. J. Granger.

By motion we adjourn until 9:00 o'clock Friday morning.

Benediction by Rev. G. W. Nobles.

FRIDAY MORNING SESSION

Reassembled with G. W. Nobles the Moderator presiding. Prayer by Rev. G. W. Nobles. The Moderator read for our morning lesson a portion of the 5th chapter of Eph. At this junction the Houston County Four Quartette rendered a very beautiful selection in song.

Renewed the call for corresponding letters, there were two received. Namely:

Long Branch—Willburn Aycock.

Shiloh—Bently Smith, Nick Edmondson, Wyatt Edmondson.

By motion the letters from Long Branch and Shiloh were read and adopted and delegates seated in the body.

Renewed call for Petitionary Letters none received.

Called the roll and read the decorum.

Renewed call for correspondents from Sister Associations. None received.

Called for volunteer correspondents to Sister Associations. They were as follows:

Liberty—L. C. Mixon, E. S. Jones, D. R. Hicks.

Midway—G. W. Nobles.

Salem—G. W. Nobles, E. S. Jones.

Martin—J. A. Callaway, A. J. Granger.

Southeastern—R. L. Hunter.

General Association—By motion we correspond by letter.

On motion, proceed with business until 10:45 o'clock.

Report on Education was read and adopted. At this juncture a public collection of \$26.00 was taken up for the Zion Bible School property in Dothan, Alabama.

Report on Nominations was read and adopted.

Report on Sunday Schools was read and adopted.

On motion we adjourn until 1:30 o'clock for preaching service. A memorial service in memory of our dear beloved brethren W. S. Cook and J. W. Conner be conducted by Rev. J. C. Eldridge: Text, St. John 16-22. Bro. Eldridge delivered a very inspiring message to a well filled house. The Houston County Four Quartette rendered several appropriate songs for this occasion. Dismissed for dinner by singing "Amazing Grace."

FRIDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

The body was called to order by G. W. Nobles the Moderator. Devotional conducted by Rev. E. C. Williams.

Report on Home Missions was read and adopted.

Report on Documents was read and adopted.

By motion that we use last years Report on Temperance as the Committee was absent.

On motion the \$26.00 collected for Zion Bible School be turned over to Rev. Floyd Cherry.

Report on Divine Service was read and adopted.

On motion, Covenant of the National Association be read.

By motion this Covenant was adopted and also be printed in the Minutes.

Report on Suggestions was read and adopted.

Report on Obituaries with ammendment to add number of deaths was read and adopted.

Report on State of Churches and Character of Ministers was read and adopted.

By motion Rev. T. B. Mellette be given a clear recommendation from the State Line Association Free and Uncumbered from anything that was or might have been brought up against him.

Report on Finance was read and adopted.

Treasurer's Report was read and adopted.

Bro. J. W. D. Stephens was given permission to use the 28 cents that was unaccounted for. for Associational funds.

MISCELLANEUS BUSINESS

By motion recind regular order of business an elect Moderator and Clerk by acclamation. Rev. G. W. Nobles was re-elected Moderator and C. B. Green was re-elected Clerk.

By motion retain our same Treasurer, J. W. D. Stephens.

By motion retain our same Executive Committee: J. C. Howell, E. S. Jones, A. C. Womack, J. J. Burdeshaw, G. W. Jeffcoat.

On motion retain our same Home Mission Board with ammendment to strike off E. S. Jones name and put Grady Scott in his place: A. H. Godfrey, Grady Scott, S. G. Carter Mrs. Mary McAllister, D. W. Pool.

By Motion we pay our Clerk \$10.00 for his services.

On motion we tender a vote of thanks to Pleasant Ridge Church and community for their kindness and hospitality shown us during the sitting of this Association.

On motion the Union Meeting be held at New Harmony church on the second fifth Sunday in 1940.

By motion all Educational funds now on hand be turned over to Rev. Floyd Cherry.

By motion this Association adjourn.

Benediction by Rev. G. W. Nobles.

G. W. NOBLES, Moderator.

C. B. GREEN, Clerk.

REPORTS

DIVINE SERVICE:—We your Committee on Divine Service nominate Bro. J. B. Lovering to preach at 7:30 o'clock Thursday night. Also nominate Bro. J. C. Eldridge to conduct a memorial service at 11:00 o'clock for Bro. J. W. Connor of Prospect and Bro. W. S. Cook of Union Springs.

We further nominate Bro. A. L. Williams to conduct a devotional service after lunch.

Pleasant Ridge, Committee.

STATE OF CHURCHES AND CHARACTER OF MINISTERS:
—We your committee on State of Churches and Character of Ministers, find the churches and ministers of our Association in order so far as we can ascertain.

Respectfully submitted,

J. W. D. Stephens, S. G. Carter, A. J. Granger, Com.

SUGGESTIONS:—We your Committee on Suggestions submit the following report: We urge each member of this Association to read and try to understand the Decorum of this Association, we urge each church to support the Sunday Schools that are already organized and also try to organize Sunday Schools in weaker churches.

We urge each church to support their pastor more than we have, and make it possible for them to carry the Word of God to a dying world.

Union Springs Church.

Magnolia F. W. B. Church. To the State Line Association Greetings:

TEMPERANCE:—We your Committee on Temperance do hereby submit this report with very much regret that we see much sign of the evils of indulging in strong drink and some who have their names on our church registers and we earnestly urge that we turn our back on this great evil and do our best to lay a foundation for a more sober and better world to live in.

Respectfully submitted,
Magnolia F. W. B. Church.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION:—We the Committee on Christian Education submit the following. Namely:

1. We follow Paul's Admonition to Timothy that we study to show ourselves approved unto God workmen that needeth not be ashamed rightly dividing the word of truth. This includes laity as well as pastors.

2. We continue to support our educational program and contribute to the purchase price and up-keep of the Dothan School property. May each church see that support is given the secretaries right away and that we recommend that Association stand behind some institution of learning with means and prayer and encourage students to attend.

3. That we recommend that churches and pastors have God's word studied and explained weekly in Sunday School and in Prayer Meetings.

Respectfully submitted,
Prospect Church and Pastor.

SUNDAY SCHOOLS:—We the Committee on Sunday School makes the following report:

First: We find that some of our churches in the Association have no Sunday Schools. We deplore this condition for we know the first teachings of the Bible to our little ones are through our Sunday Schools.

Second: We find parents are neglecting taking their children and also seeing that they attend Sunday School.

Third: We urge each Pastor that serves a church with no Sunday School to organize one and to use his influence in keeping it running for the benefit of the young people in the churches.

We also endorse the second, third, fourth and fifth items of our last 1938 Sunday School Committee.

The Bible teaches us to train the child in the way it should go and when it grows old it will not depart and we are asking what better ways have we in training than in our Sunday Schools?

We urge that the churches awake to the need of more and better Sunday Schools.

Respectfully submitted,
Howard Grove Church.

DOCUMENTS:—We your Committee on Documents submit the following report: We recommend that the auxiliary bodies of our churches use the literature published by the Free Will Baptist Press at Ayden, N. C. Also read the Free Will Baptist published by the same press. Also read The Gospel Herald, edited by Rev. Floyd Cherry. We further recommend that every Deacon from our churches in good standing with the church be a standing delegate at Association for the up-building of our rural churches.

Respectfully submitted,
Springfield Church.

OBITUARIES:—We your Committee on Obituaries beg leave to submit the following report: We find within the bounds of this Association there have occurred 16 deaths in the last Associational Year.

Prospect—Edd Brown, John W. Conner, Altha Howell.

Long Branch—Simeon Augustus Brown.

New Hope—Zillie Bayne.

Rocky Grove—Tom Evans, Florence Evans, Mattie Peeler.

Union Springs—W. S. Cook, Donie Shelly.

Howards Grove—Verna Smith.

Magnolia—G. R. Dunlap.

New Harmony—Jackson Guy.

Spring Hill—Bob Whitaker, Willie Brown Howard.

Grangeburg—Donie Granger.

Our lives have been made sad during the past year because of the deaths of loved ones and friends. But in the temporary loss we are made to feel a nearness to God and a greater interest in Heaven for we feel that we have loved ones waiting for us there. We pray God's blessings upon the bereaved.

Respectfully submitted,
Pleasant Ridge Church.

We your Committee on Nominations, nominate Hickory Grove Bascom, Fla., for the next session to be held Thursday and Friday before the second Sunday, in October, 1940.

We also nominate Rev. L. C. Mixon to preach the introductory sermon.

New Harmony Church.

We your Committee on Finance submit the folowing report:

Church	For Ass.	Minutes	Missions	Educ.
Shiloh	\$1.25	\$2.00		
Long Branch	.75	1.00		.75
New Hope	1.00	.50	\$1.00	.50
Pleasant Home	1.75	1.25	1.00	
Rocky Grove	1.25	.75		
Union Springs	1.50	1.50		
Spring Hill	1.00	.85	.50	
Prospect	2.00	2.00	1.00	
Howards Grove	2.00	4.00	2.00	2.00
Magnolia	1.00	1.00	1.00	
New Pilgrim	.75	.75		
Hickory Grove	1.50	2.00	2.55	3.00
New Harmony	1.00	1.50		2.00
Springfield	1.00	1.00	.45	.45
Corinth	1.00	.75	.50	
Pleasant Ridge	1.00	1.00		2.00
Christian Hope	.50	.75		1.00
	\$20.25	\$22.60	\$10.00	\$11.70
		TOTAL		\$64.55

Hickory Grove Church.

TREASURER'S REPORT, Oct. 5, 1939:— 1938-1939. Received from A. J. Granger former Treasurer:

For Associational Purposes	\$ 8.16
For Missions	36.38
Received From The Association:	
For Minutes	\$26.50
For Associational Purposes	20.78
For Home Missions	11.65
For Education	25.50
For Deficit on 1937 minutes (Public Collection)	9.13
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$138.10

DISBURSEMENTS:—

Paid C. B. Green, Clerk Salary	\$10.00
Paid C. B. Green on 1937 minutes	5.73
Paid C. B. Green for postage on 1937 minutes	1.96
Paid Floyd Cherry for Zion Bible School	25.50
Paid The Gospel Herald for minutes	30.00
Paid Floyd Cherry for Blank Associational Letters	6.00
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	\$79.19
Balance in Treasury for Missions	\$48.03
Balance in Treasury for Associational Purposes	\$10.88

Respectfully submitted,
J. W. D. Stephens, Treasurer.

HOME MISSIONS:—We your Committee on Home Missions wish to say, we believe in missions, because Jesus Christ said, "Go ye into all the world and preach My Gospel." This was the greatest command given us by our Lord. Are we as Free Will Baptist doing this? We have partially. But a great field is white to harvest before us. We have plenty of laborers. But have we supported them as we should? God is depending upon us, therefore we your Committee on Home Missions recommend that our ministers carry a message on Home Missions to their Pastorates and that we as an Association support our Home Mission Board.

Respectfully submitted,
Spring Hill Church.

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OBITUARIES

DUNLAP—Its with profound Sorrow we report the death of our friend and neighbor, Bro. G. R. Dunlap, who departed this life Oct. 31st, 1938. Being at the time of death 77 years old. He leaves a companion, 4 boys, 2 girls and a host of friends to mourn the passing of this good man. Bro. Dunlap united himself with the Free Will Baptist Church in the year 1889, in Barbour County and remained a member there until 1913 when Magnolia church was organized, placing his membership there and remained true and loyal until death. The church sustained a heavy loss but "He" who doeth all things well, called him away and we trust that we may meet him in a land of endless beauty. And where sorrow and suffering are o're. So we say farewell to him with the hope of meeting him again.

W. T. Weed.

BROWN—In loving memory of our beloved friend, Brother Edd Brown. On March 29, 1939 Brother Edd Brown left a vacant place in his home, Prospect church and numerous other places, that no substitute can fill.

Brother Brown leaves his wife and three daughters, one brother, three sisters and a host of friends to mourn his departure.

May we all strive to meet him in that beautiful land above, where there will be no more sad goodbyes. He is not gone but sleeping that blessed sleep and will rise to meet us on that great Judgement Day.

Brother Brown was a faithful member with us at Prospect church. Friends and relatives let us strive to meet him in that sweet home above, where parting is no more.

Written by the church Clerk, C. G. Scott.

CONNER—It is with profound remembrance that I express this tribute to memory of a dear friend, Brother John W. Conner.

On July 12, 1939 at 1:20 o'clock God saw fit to claim his own again and give him a home up higher.

Often we are called upon by the grim reaper to give up some loved one who is dear to us. To surrender that sweet smiling face, those kind words of love that mean so much to us, towards helping us along the pathway of this earthly life.

Brother Conner made a public profession of faith in Christ and became a member of Prospect church over 50 years ago. Most of that time he served as a Deacon. He was a loyal and consistent member until death.

He was a devoted father who leaves nine children to mourn their loss. His body was laid to rest in Prospect cemetery,

under a beautiful mound of flowers. The funeral was conducted by his pastor, Rev. T. B. Mellette and Rev. Floyd Cherry.

May we strive to meet him in Heaven, where there will be no more death, pain, nor tears and where there will be no more obituaries.

Written by, C. G. Scott.

HOWELL—Sister Altha Elizabeth Howell, departed this life September 8th, 1939. She was a member with us at Prospect church for over 50 years.

Her trials are over, her victory won. She kept the faith. She has gone to be with her loved one, who is resting in the sweet beyond.

She has many loving friends who mourn at her going. She leaves four daughters, and one son to mourn their loss. But we know that our loss is Heaven's gain.

Sleep on dear Sister and take your rest, if we will live the life and keep the faith that you did, we will meet again in that sweet home where we will never say goodbye.

A voice we loved is still, a place is vacant in our church which never can be filled.

Written by the church Clerk, C. G. Scott.

COOK—In memory of our beloved Bro. W. S. Cook who was born in 1861, and departed this life March 16, 1939. Between these dates he built a life worth while. The highest, the best that may be said of him. He was a good man. He was not a man who desired to shine in the public's eye. But belonged to that clan we call old fashioned. There was inbred in warp and filling of his living those fundamental virtues that have been tested out in the laboratory of life. His life was upon a solid foundation. He was active in the service of his church. Responding always most willingly to its calls. There is a vacancy in his home, in his church and community that cannot be filled. But may we not spend our time mourning but preparing to meet him when we shall sail into the port of the blessed.

By the Clerk, A. Z. Henderson.

SHELLY—In memory of our beloved Sister, friend and mother, Donie Shelly. She has been a member at Union Springs for several years, she is missed in the church, home and community. Peace be to her.

Written by, A. Z. Henderson, Clerk.

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CHURCH COVENANT

Having been brought, as we believe, by the divine grace to accept the Lord Jesus Christ as our Saviour and Preserver, we do now solemnly and joyfully covenant and agree, by God's help, to walk together in brotherly love.

We therefore enter into covenant as members of this church and as christians, that we will watch over each other in love sharing together each others joys and sorrows; that we will not forsake the assembling of ourselves together, nor omit the great duty of prayer for ourselves and others; that by divine assistance we will endeavor to bring up those under our care in the nurture and admonition of the Lord; that in all things we will strive to exemplify our profession by a corresponding practice to abstain from all sinful conformity to the world, to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements and exemplary in all our deportment;

that we will abstain from the sale and use of intoxicating liquors as a beverage; that we will sustain the worship, ordinances, discipline and doctrine of this church; that we will contribute cheerfully, according to our ability, to the support of the ministry, the expense of the church, the relief of the poor and the general spread of the Gospel.

In keeping this solemn Covenant may we ever enjoy the blessings and presence of the great Head of the Church.

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CONSTITUTION

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. Providing any church having less than 25 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 baptised, 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 the 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.

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DECORUM

Art. 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 speakers shall address the Moderator and shall not be interrupted while speaking except by the Moderator and then only when he depart from the subject under debate, provided however, any brother may address the Moderator to appoint of order.

Art. 5. The clerk shall record the proceedings of the body when in session and superintend the publication of the same and all other writing pertaining to business of the Association. He shall also preserve a file of the minutes of this 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 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.

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CHURCH DECORUM

1. The church may choose a pastor annually at the last regular conference in Associational year; or if they prefer it may choose a pastor for an indefinite length of time, to continue from year to year, so long as they may deem it proper to keep up the connection.

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

3. The pastor shall be 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 is necessary.

7. Some suitable member shall be appointed Clerk, and it shall be his duty to 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-day 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 deferrend 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 Modertator 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 until 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 acknowledgement 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 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 anyone 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 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 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 given by 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 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; 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 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 Saint's feet: John 13:5-17 inclusive.

11. THE LORD'S SUPPER.—We believe that the Lord's Supper was instituted by our Savior as a commemorative ordinance; that the bread and wine represent His Body and Blood; that it was instituted for Christians and that all Christians should unite in performing the sacred service, regardless of name, denomination or distinction.—Gal. 6:4; Matt. 7:10; Rom. 4:3, 4.

12. 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.

Statistical Table Number 1

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
Hickory Grove	Floyd Cherry	J. W. D. Stephens; Bascom, Fla.	2	2		2				121	172	1	\$1.50
Grangeburg	A. H. Godfrey	Brannon West; Gordon, Ala.						1		16	22	1	.50
Pleasant Ridge	L. C. Mixon	Sidney Tindell; Marianna, Fla. Rt.	4	1		3				43	49	1	1.00
Spring Hill	J. L. Tedder	Eudelle Tolar; Gordon, Ala.	7			1		2		88	119	4	1.00
New Pilgrim	Tom Hinderson	E. L. Hunter; Columbia, Ala.										4	.75
Springfield	W. F. McDuffie	Vera Mae Hamrick; Ashford, Ala.	1				4			44	90	4	1.00
Corinth	A. H. Godfrey	A. J. Benefield; Midland City, Ala.					1			60	73	3	1.00
New Harmony	G. W. Nobles	A. J. Granger, Cottonwood, Ala.	4					1		79	114	2	1.00
Magnolia	G. W. Nobles	W. T. Weed; Midland City, Ala.	2	3				1		57	60	1	1.00
Howards Grove	Floyd Cherry	J. R. Adams; Cottonwood, Ala.	8	1	1	5		1		141	318	4	2.00
Union Springs	W. H. Ely	O. Z. Henderson; Pansey, Ala.	8	2		1	1		2	48	144	2	1.50
Rocky Grove	J. L. Tedder	Alice Robinson; Greenwood, Fla.	3					3		31	60	2	1.25
Pleasant Home	L. C. Mixon	Malcom Coleman; Geneva, Ala.	53	9						131	184	3	1.75
New Home	A. H. Godfrey	Z. A. Ammons; Midland City, Ala.						1		9	14	3	1.00
Long Branch	D. W. Pool	J. E. Thurston; Coffee Springs, Ala.	1					1		25	34	2	.75
Shiloh	J. B. Lovering	Bently Smith; Columbia, Ala.	2	2	1					52	47	3	1.25
Prospect	T. B. Mellette	C. G. Scott; Dothan, Ala. rt. 4	1	2		4	2	3		80	136	3	2.00
TOTALS			96	6	18	2	20	2	16	1025	1636		\$20.25

Statistical Table Number 2

CHURCHES	Minutes	Missions	Education	Paid Pastor	Value of Church Building	Value of Other Property	No. in Sunday School	No. in F. W. B. L.	No. in Ladies Aid	SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS and POST OFFICES	F. W. B. L. PRESIDENTS AND POST OFFICES	LADIES AID PRESIDENTS & POST OFFICES
Hickory Grove	\$2.00	\$2.55	\$3.00	\$ 95.57	\$1000	\$ 500	65	40		J. W. D. Stephens; Bascom, Fla.	Geo. Hatcher; Bascom, Fla.	
Grangeburg	.75	.50	1.00	21.99	500	125	28			Brannon West; Gordon, Ala.		
Pleasant Ridge	1.00		2.00	60.30	500	300			21			Mamie Pool, Campbellton, Fla.
Spring Hill	.85	.50		45.69	1000	150						
New Pilgrim	.75											
Springfield	1.00	.45	.45	8.65	1000	350	47	42	29	L. G. Carter Webb, Ala.	Virginia Lamb; Ashford, Ala.	Vernell Bell, Ashford, Ala.
Corinth	.75	.50		52.90	700	200	53	60		John Peacock; Midland City, Ala.	Jon. Peacock; Midland City, Ala.	
New Harmony	1.50		2.00	62.25	1000	200						
Magnolia	1.00	1.00		45.93	300	100	42			Jon. Paramore; Midland City, Ala.		
Howards Grove	4.00	2.00	2.00	140.21	1000	500	72		20	E. L. Jones; Ashford, Ala.		Mrs. S. M. Womack, Cottonwood, Ala.
Union Springs	1.50		.50	50.00	1400	250	73			O. Z. Henderson; Pansey, Ala.		
Rocky Grove	.75				500	100						
Pleasant Home	1.25	1.00		25.00	1500	400	82			Malcom Coleman; Geneva, Ala.		
New Home	.50	1.00	.50	35.37	700	100	44			Harry Sewell; Midland City, Ala.		
Long Branch	1.00		.75	41.04	375	75						
Shiloh	2.00			53.65	500	250	79	50		J. N. Edmondson; Columbia, Ala.	Gordon Odom; Columbia, Ala.	
Prospect	2.00	1.00		81.85	750	1000	38			C. G. Scott, Dothan, Ala., Rt. 4		
TOTALS	\$22.60	\$10.50	\$12.15				623	192	70			

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Organize.
2. Invite visiting brethren to seats with us.
3. 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.

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ORDAINED MINISTERS

W. T. Henderson, Union Springs	Webb, Ala.
A. L. Williams, Phospect	Dothan, Ala.
G. W. Nobles, New Harmony	Dothan, Ala.
A. M. Kirkland, New Hope	Midland City, Ala.
R. L. Hunter, New Pilrim	Columbia, Ala.
J. D. Pearce, New Harmony	Cottonwood, Ala.
J. D. Stephens, Hickory Grove	St. Petersburg, Fla.
Joseph Whitaker, Howard Grove	Ashford, Ala.
L. C. Mixon, Pleasant Home	Geneva Ala.
M. M. Hicks, Shiloh	Blakley, Ga.
W. T. Hutto, Corinth	Midland City, Ala.
J. J. Burdeshaw, Prospect	Dothan, Ala.
A. H. Godfrey, Spring Hill	Gordon, Ala.
W. H. Keel, Free Will Rest	Grand Ridge, Fla.
H. J. Mercer, Free Will Rest	Sneads, Fla.

LICENTIATES

E. W. Burts	Geneva, Ala.
O. O. Adams, Corinth	Midland City, Ala.
Otis A. Sellers, New Harmony	Cottonwood, Ala.
C. A. Lewis, Prospect	Dothan, Ala.
G. H. Jordan, Howard Grove	Red Level, Ala.
W. P. Merrette, Union Springs	Pansey, Ala.

HISTORY OF THE ASSOCIATION

The State Line Free Will Baptist Association Was Organized

At Howard Grove Church, Nov. 20, 1866.

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,	Rockey Grove	1099
1908—	J. D. Stephens,	J. W. 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,	Pittman Creek	1477
1913—	J. M. Murdock,	J. W. D. Stephens,	Spring Hill	1462
1914—	G. W. Cherry	J. W. 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
1932—	J. W. D. Stephens,	C. B. Green,	Free Will Rest	2374
1933—	A. H. Godfrey,	C. B. Green,	Spring Hill	2360
1934—	A. H. Godfrey,	C. B. Green,	Shiloh	2539
1935—	W. S. Cook,	C. B. Green,	Pleasant Home	2495
1936—	A. H. Godfrey,	C. B. Green,	New Harmony	2479
1937—	G. W. Nobles,	C. B. Green,	Corinth	2447
1938—	G. W. Nobles,	C. B. Green,	Prospect	2536
1939—	G. W. Nobles,	C. B. Green,	Pleasant Ridge	2661