

MINUTES
OF THE
Sixty-Eighth Annual Session
OF THE
**STATE LINE ASSOCIATION OF
FREE WILL BAPTISTS**

HELD WITH
SPRING HILL CHURCH
Houston County, Alabama
and
UNION SPRINGS CHURCH
Houston County, Alabama
OCTOBER 8TH AND 9TH, 1953



OFFICERS

Rev. G. H. Jordan, Moderator Cottonwood, Ala.
Rev. G. W. Nobles, Ass't Moderator Cottonwood, Ala.
Mrs. Mary Edna Cook, Clerk Dothan, Ala.
A. C. Womack, Treasurer Cottonwood, Ala.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Ralph L. Bell, Ashford, Ala.; E. S. Jones, Ashford, Ala., Ulas Granger,
Cottonwood, Ala.; G. W. Jeffcoat, Gordon, Ala.;
William H. Stephens, Dothan, Ala.

HOME MISSION BOARD

Maxwell Sims, Ashford, Ala.; James Calloway, Cottonwood, Ala.;
Dewey Jones, Cottonwood, Ala.; Leona Granger, Cottonwood,



Ala.; John Lewis Womack, Cottonwood, Ala.

The next session meets with Corinth Church for one day only, on
Thursday at 10:00 o'clock before the Second Sunday in October, 1954,
and is 8 miles north of Midland City, Alabama, and meets with
Magnolia Church on the Second Day on Friday. This Church is
located one mile west of Lingo's Store which is located five miles
out on the Montgomery Highway north of Dothan, Alabama.

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ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Organize.
2. Invite visiting bretheren to seat with us.
3. Call for letters from different churches.
4. Call for petitionary letters.
5. Elect officers.
6. Call for correspondents 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

G. W. Nobles, Howard's Grove Cottonwood, Alabama
G. H. Jordan, Howard's Grove Cottonwood, Alabama
L. C. Mixon, Pleasant Home Geneva, Alabama
A. C. Tolar, Hickory Hill Center Hill, Florida
Lester Suttles, Hickory Hill Plant City, Florida
P. A. Brackin, Shiloh Newville, Alabama
W. T. Hutton, Corinth Newton, Alabama
Paul Mallory, Corinth Midland City, Alabama
Kenneth Phillips, Springfield Ozark, Alabama
D. W. Poole, Pleasant Ridge Dothan, Alabama
A. H. Retherford, Pleasant Ridge Chipley, Florida

LICENTIATES

C. W. Edmonson, Shiloh Columbia, Alabama
Hubert Henderson, Shiloh Ashford, Alabama
W. P. Merrette, Union Springs Ashford, Alabama

PROCEEDINGS

The State Line Association of Free Will Baptists met with Spring Hill Church, Houston County, Alabama, in its Sixth-Eighth Annual Session on Thursday, October 8, 1953, and met with Union Springs Church, Houston County, Alabama, on Friday, October 9, 1953.

THURSDAY MORNING SESSION

The body was called to order by the moderator, Rev. G. H. Jordan, who brought the morning lesson on "Finding Justification for Our Deeds," scripture text being found in 1st Samuel 15:10-22. Prayer was offered by Rev. G. H. Jordan. The congregation sang "Near The Cross."

Visiting brethren were invited to seats with us.

Moderator appointed a Finance Committee as follows: E. T. Ingram, James Calloway, A. C. Womack.

Letters were called for from the difference churches.

NAMES OF CHURCHES AND DELEGATES

COWART'S CREEK—Ralph Bell, Mrs. Ralph Bell, Mrs. James Fowler, Mr. and Mrs. Shelley Fowler.

GRANGERBURG—W. L. Granger, Mrs. B. W. West, Mrs. Royce Askew.

HICKORY HILL—Wiley Wells, Mrs. A. C. Tolar, Jeanette Wells, Arthur Wells.

HOWARD'S GROVE—E. S. Jones, Colvin Jordan, Mrs. Ray Parsons, Ivey Dickerson, Mrs. Clayton Parson, Mrs. Millard Jones, A. C. Womack, Mrs. E. S. Jones.

MAGNOLIA—Bernice Paramore, Cecil Paramore, Nell Paramore.

NEW HARMONY—Ulas Granger, James Calloway, Gussie Robinson, Leona Granger, Donie Calloway.

PLEASANT RIDGE—Erenst Granger, Nellie Brown, Elmer Monday, Thelma Hart, Mrs. Jessie West.

PROSPECT—Mrs. Docia Allen, Mrs. Myrtle Welcher, Mrs. Bithia Kirkland.

PLEASANT HOME—Foy Brannon, Lloyd Bottoms, Trixie Owens, J. C. Hicks, Mrs. J. C. Hicks.

SPRINGFIELD—Jack Bell, John Singletary, Mrs. John Singletary, Mrs. Will Roney.

SPRING HILL—Mrs. R. G. Burkett, Elizabeth Brunson, Mrs. Leo Jordan, Madison Taylor.

UNION SPRINGS—Thurman Drinkwater, Maxwell Sims, Ester Knight, Mr. R. B. Etheridge, Mrs. R. B. Etheridge.

Moderator appointed Ralph Bell and Mrs. Donie Calloway to read church letters.

Renewed call for church letters, 2 received.

CORINTH—T. A. Payne.

PITTMAN'S CREEK—J. S. Rutherford, Laura Rutherford, Bessie Sowell, Lois Sowell.

By motion letters were received and the delegates seated.

By motion ten minutes were given for recess before preaching.

Song by congregation, "Face to Face."

Prayer offered by Rev. T. B. Mellette.

The introductory sermon was preached by Rev. C. A. Huckaby. His scripture was 1st Corinthians 12:18-25, and his subject, "The Church and Its Members' Commission and Responsibility to An Evangelism Program." 1. Giving of Our Means; 2. Giving of Our Time; 3. Giving of Our Service. His message was a challenge to the churches of the Association.

Moderator appointed a Divine Service Committee which consisted of delegates of Spring Hill and Union Springs Churches.

Dismissed for noon. Prayer by Rev. J. L. Tedder. Association to reconvene at 1:30 p. m.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

The body was called to order by the moderator, Rev. G. H. Jordan.

Songs by the congregation, "There Is a Fountain" and "When I See The Blood."

Afternoon devotion was brought by Rev. G. W. Nobles, using Isaiah 1:1-9 as his scripture text. The following thoughts were brought to our attention: God's people have forgotten their Maker and should take heed to the warnings He is giving. We should pray for a vision and passion for lost souls.

The call for letters from the churches was renewed. None received.

Called for petitionary letters. None received.

By motion officers of Association were elected by nomination and acclamation as follows: Rev. G. H. Jordan re-elected moderator; Rev. G. W. Nobles re-elected assistant moderator; Mrs. Mary E. Cook re-elected clerk; Mr. A. C. Womack elected treasurer.

Correspondents from the different associations were called for. The following were present:

MIDWAY—Rev. J. L. Tedder and Rev. T. B. Mellette, who reported of the progress they had made by budgeting their offerings and challenged this the State Line Association to try same.

LIBERTY—Rev. C. A. Huckaby, who reported they meet quarterly, have 10 churches in association, with four of them having full time services.

By motion these visiting delegates from the different associations were invited to seats in the body.

By motion all visitors were invited to seats in the body.

Letter from Bro. Ryland was read by the moderator in behalf of the Free Will Baptist Children's Home in Eldridge, Alabama.

Bro. E. T. Ingram, a member of the staff at the Children's Home, gave us a report on the needs of the Home.

By motion free will offering was taken for the Children's Home, which amounted to \$75.00.

The Moderator appointed the following committees:

NOMINATIONS—Thurman Drinkwater, T. A. Payne, Mrs. B. W. West.

AUXILIARY—Mrs. Ralph Bell, Mrs. Bithia Kirkland, Mrs. Nell Paramore.

EDUCATION—Elmer Monday, Loyd Bottoms, Nellie Brown.

HOME MISSIONS—Mrs. John Singletary, Wiley Wells, Mrs. James Fowler.

TEMPERANCE—E. S. Jones, Mrs. Shelly Fowler, Mrs. Myrtle Welcher.

OBITUARIES—Earnest Granger, John Singletary, Ester Knight.

STATE OF CHURCHES & CHARACTER OF MINISTERS—Ralph Bell, Ulas Granger, Mrs. Clayton Parsons.

The committee of Divine Services made their report which was adopted.

By motion the Association adjourned until 9:30 a. m. Friday at Union Springs Church.

THURSDAY NIGHT SERVICES

The services were held at Spring Hill Church. Songs, "When I See the Blood" and "Are You Washed in the Blood." Prayers offered by E. S. Jones and Mrs. R. G. Burkett. Rev. A. C. Tolar read from the 3rd Chapter of Revelations and brouhgt a message on "Spirit of the Churches." Benediction by Mr. M. H. Taylor.

FRIDAY MORNING SESSION

The Association reassembled at 9:30 a. m. at Union Springs Church, the body being called to order by the moderator, Rev. G. H. Jordan.

Songs by the congation, "My Loved Ones Are Wating For Me," Throw Out the Life Line" and "Send The Light."

Prayer offered by E. T. Ingram, followed by song, "Praise Him."

The moderator read the morning lesson, Job 23:1-10, speaking on "We Go Forward To Make Progress."

The call for church letters was renewed, two received:

SHILOH—Mr. Gordon Odom, Mrs. Gordon Odom.

NEW HOPE—Letter only.

By motion, letters received and delegates seated in the body.

By motion, roll was called by clerk.

By motion, reading of Decorum was omitted.

Renewed call for correspondents from Sister Associations. None received.

The moderator appointed the following correspondents to Sister Associations:

LIBERTY—Mr. and Mrs. Shelley Fowler, Loyd Bottoms, L. C. Mixon.

MIDWAY—G. W. Nobles, E. S. Jones, Maxwell Sims, Madison Taylor and Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Odom.

SOUTHEASTERN—William H. Stephens.

SALEM—A. C. Tolar.

Called for report of following committees:

Report on Nominations was read and adopted.

Report on Finances was read and adopted.

Report on Home Missions was read and adopted.

Motion made and carried that we recess until 1:15 p. m.

Motion to recess ten minutes before the morning message. Song, "Standing on the Promises," and prayer by Rev. J. L. Tedder.

THE ELEVEN O'CLOCK SERVICE

Songs by congregation, "What a Friend We Have in Jesus," "When The Morning Comes," "When We All Get To Heaven." Prayer by Bro. A. C. Womack. The morning message was brought by Rev. L. C. Mixon. He read the 60th Psalm as his scripture text and his message was "Save Me, Oh God, To Overcome." Song, "Nothing Between."

We were dismissed for lunch by Rev. G. W. Nobles.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

The body was called to order by the moderator, Rev. G. H. Jordan. Songs by the congregation, "Since Jesus Came Into My Heart," "The Haven of Rest" and "If I Could Hear My Mother Pray Again."

Mr. William H. Stephens was in charge of the afternoon devotional service. He read 2nd Chronicles 7:14, speaking briefly on "Our Need For Turning From Our Wicked Ways." Prayer by Rev. G. W. Nobles.

Called for report of following committees:

Report on Auxiliaries was read and adopted.

Report on Education was read and adopted.

Report on Suggestions was read and adopted.

Report on Temperance was read and adopted.

Report on Obituaries was read and adopted.

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

Report of Treasurer was read and adopted.

Moderator appointed assistant moderator, Rev. G. W. Nobles, to serve the chair.

Mrs. Georgia Trawick's written resignation from the Home Mission Board due to ill health was read and accepted.

Bro. Maxwell Sims was elected to replace Mrs. Trawick on the Home Mission Board.

Executive Committee reported that no delegates were sent to the State Association. They also reported that a Teachers' Training Course was held at Prospect Church with the Rev. T. B. Mellette as the teacher. Several churches attended this course and much good was derived from same. The expenses of this course were taken care of by those attending same.

Rising vote of thanks was given the Executive Committee for their efforts.

Motion to retain same Executive Board.

Motion to retain same Home Mission Board.

By motion the Sunday School and League Conventions minutes to be printed with the Association Minutes with the Association assuming the responsibility of the cost.

By motion, send \$75.00 to F. W. B. Children's Home.

By motion, send \$75.00 to F. W. B. Bible College.

By motion, Executive Committee appointed to find time more suitable for Association and make report at next session.

By motion, rising vote of thanks was given Spring Hill and Union Springs Churches for their hospitality during this Association.

Moved and carried that Association adjourn. Song by congregation, "Old Time Religion." Benediction by Bro. A. C. Womack.

REV. G. H. JORDAN, Moderator

MARY EDNA COOK, Clerk

Report of Committees

COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS

We, your committee on nominations, nominate Corinth Church for the 1st day in 1953 and Magnolia for the 2nd day.

We nominate Rev. Lee Mixon to bring the introductory sermon.

MRS. B. W. WEST

THURMAN DRINKWATER

T. A. PAYNE

DIVINE SERVICE COMMITTEE

We, your committee on Divine Service, make the following report: We nominate Bro. A. C. Tolar to preach tonight at 7:00 and Bro. L. C. Mixon to preach Friday at 11:00 o'clock.

Delegates of Howard's Grove and Spring Hill Churches.

AUXILIARIES COMMITTEE

We find that of the 16 churches represented in this Association:

16 Sunday Schools with 821 enrolled and 99 teachers.

6 Free Will Baptist Leagues with 269 enrolled.

5 Woman's Auxiliaries with 94 enrolled.

MRS. RALPH BELL

MRS. BITHIA KIRKLAND

MRS. NELL PARAMORE

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

We, your committee on education, make the following report:

The lack of Christian education in our public schools make the need much greater for education in the church.

We suggest that each church have Sunday School and League. We also suggest more Christian teaching in the home by the parents.

We urge the support of our Bible College as far as possible.

LOYD BOTTOMS

NELLIE BROWN

ELMER MONDAY

SUGGESTIONS COMMITTEE

We, your committee on Suggestions:

1st, we suggest that each church PLEASE put the name of the church and denomination by the side of the main highways pointing the direction to their church.

2nd, we suggest that each church try to elect delegates to go to the Association that will go if they can.

3rd, we suggest that we let God help us in all of our undertakings and to realize He will help us if given a chance.

We suggest that we wake up to the fact of life and let God help us in our important decisions and in our weaknesses and not wait until the cup of life is emptied to the very dregs to get divine help, for it is available every step of the way.

We suggest that we all put forth a greater effort in our everyday life, in our church, and in our community—to help the unconcerned and the unbelievers to know such scriptures that Jesus haid Himself, such as Matthew 18:3: "And He said, verily I say unto you, except we be converted and become as little children, we shall not enter into the kindom of heaven."

And Revelation 22:12, "And behilf I come quickly and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be."

We suggest that we live our lives for God and let our works be sufficient that we will receive that great reward that Jesus has to offer.

When we have done these suggestions, we are sure we can see a great accomplishment in our lives, in our church, and in our community and all of us will be on fire for God.

MRS. ULAS GRANGER
CECIL J. PARAMORE
M. H. TAYLOR

HOME MISSIONS COMMITTEE

We, your committee on Home Missions, make the following report:

Seeing the great need of the gospel being spread, we recommend that each church make an effort to support some orphanage at home or some church to be organized as their special responsibility.

MRS. JAMES FOWLER
MRS. JOHN SINGLETARY

TEMPERANCE COMMITTEE

We your committee on Temperance, present as our everyday Temperance:

To ask God to help us to refrain from the things that would destroy our

faith in Him and not to take anything in the body that would define it, but keep it Holy and acceptable unto God.

"Whether therefore, you eat or drink or whatsoever ye do, do all to the Glory of God." 1st Cor. 10:31.

MR. E. S. JONES

MRS. MYRTLE WELCHER

MRS. MAUDE FOWLER

STATE OF CHURCHES AND CHARACTER OF MINISTERS COMMITTEE

We, your committee on State of Churches and Character of Ministers, make the following report:

We find the churches of this Association reporting fair and good condition; however, to our knowledge there has been too much gossip and wrangling in some of our churches.

The character of ministers as a whole is good. There is at least one exception, in which case the minister was arrested and pleaded guilty. We recommend that in the future if a case of this kind arrives that the church of which the minister is pastor immediately call the Executive Committee into session for a study of the case.

ULAS GRANGER

RALPH L. BELL

OBITUARIES COMMITTEE

We, your committee on Obituaries, find from the various church letters that there has been 16 deaths during the past associational year; namely:

William P. Herndon, Mrs. Jenny Anglin, Mr. Lonzo Hicks, Mrs. Willie Peterson, J. D. Lockhart, Sr., Green R. Watson, S. M. Womack, Abbie Love, R. M. Smith, Dave Arnold, Vermell Bell, Bessie Granger, J. C. Thompson, W. E. Harrell, Cilla Cherry, John W. Grice.

MRS. ESTER KNIGHT

FINANCE COMMITTEE

We, your committee on finance, make the following report:

We find that \$229.80 has been sent in for Associational purposes.

JAMES CALLOWAY

E. T. INGRAM

A. C. WOMACK

TREASURER'S REPORT

Cash on hand at beginning of 1952 session.....\$206.26

Cash received at 1952 session 224.57

Total Receipts\$430.93

DISBURSEMENTS

D. W. Poole (Treasurer's Salary) _____	\$ 10.00
G. H. Jordan (Moderator's Salary) _____	10.00
Howard's Grove Church (see footnote) _____	15.00
F. W. B. Children's Home (Eldridge, Ala.) _____	51.33
Grangerburg F. W. B. Church (Donation on building) _____	100.00
F. W. B. Press (Minutes) _____	100.00
Bank service charge _____	.10
<hr/>	
Total disbursements _____	\$286.43

\$430.83
286.43

Cash on hand at beginning of 1953 session _____ \$144.40

(Note). Through mistake the Treasurer paid Mrs. Mary Edna Cook \$15.00 at the 1951 session for Clerk salary. This should have been paid to Mr. C. B. Green, retiring Clerk. Then after the session closed Howard's Grove Church reimbursed Mr. Green for his Associational services, so in the 1952 session the Treasurer was authorized to reimburse Howard's Grove Church in place of paying Mrs. Cook for her services which were paid in 1951.

Respectfully submitted,

D. W. POOLE, Treasurer

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 and others; that by divine assistance we will endeavor to bring up those under our care in the nurture and admintion 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 enjoy the blessing and presence of the great Head of the Church.

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 baptized, received by confession of faith, by letter, by restoration, dismissed by letter, excluded or died within last year, amount of all contributions, the time of the monthly meeting, the membership, ordained and licentiated ministers with their post office 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 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 reason.

Art. 6. The officers of this Association shall be 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 season.

Decorum

Art. 1. The Moderator, Clerk, Treasurer, Executive Committee and Home Mission Board shall be elected any way that the Association shall determine.

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 proceeding of the body when in session and superintendent 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 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.

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, than at the last regular conference of the associational year.

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 reordained.

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-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, disciplines 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 the 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 absentees. (5) Acknowledgements. (6) For reference of 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 better 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 objections 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 consecutive 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 reasons shall be cited to the conference to answer for their 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 permission.

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.

Articles of Faith

1. OF GOD—We believe that there is one and only one living 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 inspirations 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 persons 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; 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 posterity will sin and come short of the Glory of God except that they receive Salvation through the Lord Jesus Christ.—Genesis 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.—1 Cor. 1:7; Eph. 5:2; Heb. 2:9; Rom. 3:5; 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; Deut. 11:26-28.

9. OF PERSEVERANCE—We believe that none will be finally saved but those who through grace, persevere in holiness to the end.—John 8:31; Tim. 1:19; Peter 2:21,22.

10. GOSPEL ORDINANCES—We believe that baptism or the burial of believers in water and the Lord's Supper and Washing of 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 the 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.

12. THE RESURRECTION—We believe when 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.

Statistics of the Association

The State Line Association was organized at Howard's Grove Church, November 20, 1886.

Year	Moderator	Clerk	Church	Mem.
1886	D. L. Chandler,	Calvin Dykes,	Howard Grove	449
1887	D. L. Chandler,	Calvin Dykes,	Beulah	557
1888	R. M. Groy,	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. W. 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, Pittman Creek	1447
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. 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
1940—G. W. Nobles, C. B. Green, Hickory Grove	2619
1941—G. W. Nobles, C. B. Green, Rocky Grove	2853
1942—J. C. Howell, C. B. Green, Pleasant Home	2672
1943—G. W. Nobles, C. B. Green, Pittman Creek	2727
1944—G. W. Nobles, C. B. Green, Howard Grove	2788
1945—G. H. Jordan, C. B. Green, Union Springs	2717
1946—G. H. Jordan, C. B. Green, Sedar Grove	2756
1947—G. H. Jordan, C. B. Green, Springfield	2756
1948—G. H. Jordan, C. B. Green, Spring Hill	2743
1949—G. H. Jordan, C. B. Green, New Harmony	2760
1950—G. H. Jordan, C. B. Green, Prospect and Pleasant Ridge	3083
1951—G. H. Jordan, Mary E. Cook, Home and Pittman Creek	2761
1952—G. H. Jordan, Mary E. Cook, Howard's Grove and Cowart's Creek	2747
1953—G. H. Jordan, Mary E. Cook, Spring Hill and Union Springs	2663

Minutes of State Line S. S. Convention

The State Line Sunday School Convention convened with Pleasant Home Church, Sunday, August 30, 1953.

The Convention was called to order by the President, Ralph Bell. Prayer by Brother Mixon.

The morning devotional was given by Rev. D. W. Poole.

Bill Bottoms of Pleasant Home Church gave the welcome address. Response was by New Hope Church.

A special song was rendered at this time by little Miss Patricia Odom of Shiloh Church.

We then entered into the business session. The following officers were elected to serve for another year:

President—Ralph Bell

Vice-President—Bill Bottoms

Secretary-Treasurer—Dorothy Lamb

The following committees were appointed by the President:

BANNER COMMITTEE: Mrs. Paramore, Gordon Odom and Miss Gladys Adams.

CONVENTION HOME COMMITTEE: Joe Ben Pilcher, Doc Stephens and Mrs. West.

A move was made and adopted that Grangerburg delegates, together with all other delegates, be seated in this Convention.

Minutes of last Convention were read and adopted. The Treasury Report was also read and adopted.

At this time the President recognized visitors from other denominations and from other Conventions and made them welcome. The business session closed with a song.

Mrs. Mary Eppsie Bruner of Howard's Grove Church gave the Sunday School lesson. After a song and prayer we were dismissed for the noon hour.

After a very enjoyable noon hour the Convention was called back to order by the President. Prayer was offered by Sister West.

A very interesting and inspiring talk about Sunday School was given by Mrs. Everson, of the Georgia Midway Association.

Programs were then given by Pittman Creek, Springfield, Howard's Grove, and Grangerburg Churches. Brother Long gave a talk as Spring Hill's part on the program.

A report on the State Sunday School Convention was given by Mr. Taylor, who was a delegate to the Convention.

Rev. D. W. Poole reported on the Youth Camp and stressed the opportunity there for young people in this Convention.

A report was made on the Teacher Training Course held at Prospect Church this year. Brother Doc Stephens made the report. A move was made and adopted that we bring this matter before the State Line Association and ask for other Training Courses.

A move was made and adopted to appoint delegates to the State S. S. Convention to be held in Florence, Alabama, in June, 1954. Brother Bill Bottoms and Bro. Taylor volunteered to attend. The Convention voted to pay dues and to send a report to the State Convention by the delegates.

A move was made and adopted that the Sunday School Minutes be printed with the Association minutes if it meets with their approval.

The following Committee Reports were given:

We, your Convention Home Committee, submits the following report: Grangerburg Church will be host to the Convention in 1954. Signed: W. H. Stephens, Rex Stephens, Mrs. B. W. West.

We, your Banner Committee, wish to report that Shiloh Church won the banner for this year. Signed: Mrs. Paramore, Gordon Odom, Gladys Adams.

Announcements were made and a rising vote of thanks was given to Pleasant Home Church for her hospitality to the Convention.

The Convention adjourned with prayer by Rev. D. W. Poole.

RALPH BELL, President

GRADY SCOTT, Vice-President

DOROTHY LAMB, Sec'y & Treas.

TREASURY REPORT

Balance, August 31, 1952	\$ 67.10
Collections, August 30, 1953:	
Convention Dues	\$61.50
Missions	2.00
Total Collections	63.50
 Total Receipts	 \$130.60
Expenditures, 1952-53:	
State S. S. Convention	\$24.00
Correspondence	4.50
Missions	2.00
Total Expense	30.50
 Balance	 \$100.10

Minutes of the Cooperative League Convention

The Cooperative League Convention convened with Prospect Free Will Baptist Church Sunday, May 31, 1953.

The convention was opened by the President, Mrs. Mary Edna Cook. The Welcome Address was given by Peggy Seay of Prospect League with the Response being given by Mr. Ralph Bell of Cowart's Creek League.

After special music by Howard's Grove and Spring Hill Leagues, the convention entered into the business session. The reports from the leagues were received and the delegates were seated. Because of the absence of the secretary, there were no minutes read or treasurer's report given.

The constitution of our Cooperative League Convention, as proposed by the Executive and Program Committee of the Convention, was read and adopted by the body.

The following officers were elected to serve for another year:

PRESIDENT: Mrs. Mary Edna Cook

VICE-PRESIDENT: Mr. John Carr

SECRETARY-TREASURER: Miss Meredith Kirksey

Invitations for the 1954 Convention Session were extended by Howard Grove, Spring Hill, and Springfield Leagues.

The following committees were appointed by the President:

CONVENTION HOME: John Carr, Glenda Smith, and Ethel Bruner

FINANCE COMMITTEE: Halph Bell, William Stephens, Mrs. Hugh Jeffcoat, Mrs. Jim Kay and John L. Womack.

BANNER COMMITTEE: Meredith Kirksey, David Rabon, William Stephens.

A move was made and adopted to change the name on our League Convention Banner from State Line League Convention to Cooperative League Convention. The morning business session closed with a song.

Recess was given for 10 minutes.

Rev. Charles Thigpen, of the Free Will Baptist College, brought a very inspiring youth message.

After a very refreshing noon hour, the convention was called back to order by the President. Meredith Kirksey of Spring Hill League gave the afternoon devotional after a period of chorus singing.

Special Music was given by Union Springs and Prospect Leagues.

A Junior and Senior Sword Drill was given. The Junior Winner being Danny Sue Jones, and the Senior winner, Meredith Kirksey, of Howard's Grove and Spring Hill Leagues. These winners were awarded F. W. B. L. Pins.

After congregational singing, an instruction period was given for the different league officers.

A short play, "Aunt Sally Joins the F. W. B. L.," was given by Prospect League. Following the play was a brief business session.

The following leagues were represented by report and delegation: Howard's Grove, Spring Hill, Springfield, Prospect, and Cowart's Creek.

The Banner Committee reported that Prospect League won the Banner with a 74 per cent average. This committee also reported that in 1954 the banner should be awarded on a basis of average percentage and total enrollment.

The Convention Home Committee reported tht Spring Hill League would be host to the 1954 Convention.

The Finance Committee reported that the Executive Committee Be authorized to use the treasury money as they saw fit.

A move was made and seconded to send dues and delegation from the Cooperative League Convention to the Alabama State League Convention.

Announcements were made and the Convention adjourned with the League Benediction.

MRS. MARY EDNA COOK, President
MR. JOHN CARR, Vice-President
MEREDITH KIRKSEY, Sec.-Treas.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Received May 31, 1953—League Dues _____ \$25.00

Dues Paid at Alabama State Convention _____ 7.50

Balance on Hand in Treasury _____ \$17.50

Special Music was rendered by the Ryland Twins from Eldridge, Ala. Rev. Ryland spoke concerning the Children's Home in Eldridge. An offering was received for the Children's Home.

A rising vote of thanks was given to Prospect Church for her hospitality to the convention.

Churches	Pastors	Clerks and Postoffices	Meeting Days	Value of Other Church Property										Value of Church Bldg.	Paid Pastor	Associational Purposes	Total Membership	Dec. by Expulsion	Dec. by Death	Inc. by Letter	Inc. by Restoration	Inc. by Confession	Inc. by Baptism
				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10										
Spring Hill	M. D. Long, Jr.	Miss Meredith Kirksey, Gordon, Ala.	1st & 3rd	1	1	3	0	2	2	0	288	\$10.00	\$459.17	\$3000.00	\$1000.00								
Prospect	T. B. Mellette	Myrtle Welcher, 1020 N. Foster St., Dothan, Ala.	Full Time	13	0	4	0	3	2	5	230	\$30.00	1244.39	15000.00	\$5000.00								
New Harmony	Huey Long	Mrs. Jamts Calloway, Cottonwood, Ala.	2nd & 4th	3	0	0	2	2	1	0	128	\$10.00	\$711.70	\$4000.00	\$ 400.00								
Howard's Grove	G. H. Jordan	A. C. Womack, Cottonwood, Ala.	2nd & 4th	20	1	6	0	9	2	0	471	\$50.00	\$625.00	12000.00	\$3000.00								
Pleasant Home	L. C. Mixon	Loyd Bottoms, Black, Ala.	3rd	0	0	1	1	3	0	0	312	\$31.20	\$365.75	\$2500.00	\$ 500.00								
Hickory Hill	A. C. Tolar	Emma White, Center Hill, Fla.	1st	0	5	0	2	0	1	0	65	\$ 5.00	\$ 58.00	\$3000.00	\$ 500.00								
Shiloh	John Barnes	Hubert Henderson, Ashford, Ala.	1st & 3rd	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	191	\$ 7.00	\$477.83	\$1000.00	\$ 300.00								
Corinth	Kenneth Phillips	S. Jackson, Midland City, Ala.	3rd	0	0	0	0	5	1	0	124	\$10.00	\$142.15	\$2000.00	\$ 300.00								
Grangerburg	M. D. Long Jr.	Royce Askew, Gordon, Ala.		2	0	1	0	0	1	0	22	\$ 5.00	Vis.P.	\$5000.00	\$ 500.00								
Pitman Creek	L. C. Mixon	Earl Sowell, Rt. 1, Black, Ala.	1st	2	0	0	3	1	0	0	97	\$10.00	\$130.00	\$1000.00	\$ 400.00								
Springfield	James Pelt	Billy Rabon, Rt. 2, Ashford, Ala.	2nd	0	0	2	0	1	2	0	111	\$10.00	\$380.00	\$2100.00	\$ 500.00								
Pleasant Ridge	A. H. Retherford	Sidney Tindell, Malone, Fla.	2nd & 4th	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	114	\$ 6.50	\$426.15	\$3000.00	\$ 750.00								
Union Springs	Coy Watson	E. J. Henderson, Columbia, Ala.	2nd	0	0	0	0	8	1	6	270	\$10.00	\$380.93	\$3000.00	\$ 500.00								
New Hope	Hubert Henderson	Z. A. Ammons, Rt. 1, Midland City, Ala.	4th	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	18	\$ 8.00	\$ 55.12	\$1000.00	\$ 500.00								
Magnolia	Paul Mallory	Faye Paramore, Rt. 2, Midland City, Ala.	4th	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	107	\$12.00	\$218.85	\$3000.00	\$ 800.00								
Cowart's Creek	Coy Watson	Mrs. Ralph Bell, Rt. 1, Ashford, Ala.	1st & 3rd	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	115	\$15.00	\$340.00	\$3000.00	\$1000.00								

Churches	Sunday School Superintendents and Post Offices	No. in Sunday School	F. W. B. League Presidents and Post Offices	No. in F.W.B. League	Woman's Auxiliary Presidents and Post Offices No. in Woman's Aux.
Spring Hill	Thurman Tolar, Pansey, Ala.	76	James Jeffcoat, Gordon, Ala.	42	
Prospect	W. A. Brown, Dothan, Ala., Rt. 5, Box 4x	65	Rudolph Cox, Dothan, Ala., Rt. 4	39	Mrs. Docia Allen, Dothan, Ala., Rt. 4 14
New Harmony	Marvin Calloway, Cottonwood, Ala.	30			
Howard's Grove	E. S. Jones, Ashford, Ala., Rt. 1	90	John Carr, Ashford, Ala., Rt. 1	62	Evelyn Womack, Cottonwood, Ala. 41
Pleasant Home	Ray Ogburn, Geneva, Ala.	75	Gene Burch, Geneva, Ala.	60	
Hickory Hill	A. C. Tolar, Center Hill, Fla.	46			
Shiloh	C. J. Duke, Columbia, Ala., Rt. 2	32			Ethel Miller, Columbia, Ala. 14
Corinth	R. B. Outlaw, Midland City, Ala.	40			
Grangerburg	B. W. West, Cottonwood, Ala.	35			
Pittman's Creek	Jeff Hawthorne, Black, Ala.	89			Claudia Retherford, Caryville, Fla. 10
Springfield	Billy Rabon, Ashford, Ala., Rt. 2	63	John Singletary, Webb, Ala., Rt. 1	36	Mrs. Hubert Johnston, Webb, Ala., Rt. 1 15
Pleasant Ridge	E. W. Granger, Marianna, Fla.	20			
Union Springs	Maxwell Sims, Ashford, Ala.	56			
New Hope	Rex Stevens, Midland City, Ala., Rt. 1	21			
Magnolia	Cecil Paramore, Midland City, Ala., Rt. 2	46			
Cowart's Creek	Harvey Anderson, Ashford, Ala., Rt. 1	37	Billy Martin, Ashford, Ala., Rt. 1	30	