

MINUTES
of the
Sixty-Ninth Annual Session
of the
STATE LINE ASSOCIATION
of
FREE WILL BAPTISTS

held with
CORINTH CHURCH
Dale County, Alabama
and
MAGNOLIA CHURCH
Dale County, Alabama
OCTOBER 7 and 8, 1954

●
OFFICERS

Rev. G. H. Jordan, Moderator.....Cottonwood, Ala.
Rev. G. W. Nobles, Assistant 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, Alabama.

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 Pleasant Ridge Church for one day, Thurs-
day before the second Sunday in October, 1955, at 10:00 a.m. The
Church may be found by turning off the Cottonwood-Grangerburg
highway 1/4 mile below New Harmony Church and going four miles
south. The association meets with Grangerburg, Alabama, Church for
the second day, Friday before the second Sunday in October, 1955.

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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 correspondents from sister associations
7. Appoint committees
8. Call the roll and read decorum
9. Call for report of committees
10. Appoint correspondents to sister associations
11. Call for Treasurer's report
12. Call for miscellaneous business
13. Adjournment

ORDAINED MINISTERS

Huey Long, Springhill.....Columbus, Georgia ✓
G. H. Jordan, Howard's Grove.....Cottonwood, Alabama ✓
G. W. Nobles, Howard's Grove.....Cottonwood, Alabama X
L. C. Mixon, Pleasant Home.....Black, Alabama ✓
A. C. Tolar, Hickory Hill.....Center Hill, Florida ✓
P. A. Brackin, Shiloh.....Newville, Alabama ✓
Hubert Henderson, Shiloh.....Columbia, Alabama ✓
W. T. Hutto, Corinth.....Newton, Alabama X
Paul Mallory, Corinth.....Midland City, Alabama ✓

LICENTIATES

C. W. Edmunson, Shiloh.....Columbia, Alabama ✓
W. P. Merrette, Union Springs.....Ashford, Alabama ✓

Proceedings

The State Line Association of Free Will Baptists convened its sixty-ninth annual session with Corinth Church, Dale County, Alabama, on Thursday, October 7, 1954, and with Magnolia Church, Dale County, Alabama, on Friday, October 8, 1954.

THURSDAY MORNING SESSION

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

After the singing of several hymns by the congregation, Rev. J. L. Tedder led in prayer.

The morning devotion was given by the Moderator, Rev. G. H. Jordan, using as his Scripture 1 Samuel 9:15-19. He gave a very pointed lesson on "God, the Original Source of Wisdom, and the Solution to Our Problems."

Visiting brethren were invited to seats with us.

The Moderator appointed a Finance Committee as follows: Ralph L. Bell, Lewis Mallory, E. S. Jones.

Letters from the different churches were called for with the following reporting:

Corinth: Ralph Baxley, Frank Baxley, Lewis Mallory, George Mallory.

Cowart's Creek: Ralph L. Bell, Mrs. K. B. Fowler.

Hickory Hill: Emma White, A. C. Tolar.

Magnolia: Nell Rose Paramore, Faye Paramore, John Paramore, Eleanor Dykes.

New Harmony: Ulas Granger, James Calloway, Leona Granger, Donia Calloway.

Pleasant Home: Lloyd Bottoms, Mr. and Mrs. D. R. Hicks, Mildred Bottoms.

First F. W. B. of Dothan: Mr. and Mrs. Ed Battle, Georgia Trawick, Docia Allen, E. T. Ingram.

Springfield: Mr. and Mrs. John Singletary, David Rabon, Lendon Hamrick.

Pitman Creek: M. F. Smith, Edna Smith, Renner Paul, J. S. Retherford.

Union Springs: Thurman Drinkwater, Annie Drinkwater, Mrs. A. W. Sims.

New Hope: Billy Ammons.

Springhill: Mr. and Mrs. Madison Taylor.

Moderator appointed G. W. Nobles, Gordon Odom, and Ulas Granger to read the church letters.

By motion letters were received and delegates seated in body.

By motion the business session was suspended until the afternoon session with a five minute recess being given before preaching services.

The morning message was brought by Rev. L. C. Mixon, with his text being taken from Ephesians 5:1-13.

After singing by the congregation we were dismissed for the noon hour by Rev. C. A. Huckaby, with the association to reconvene at 1:30 p. m.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

After the singing of several hymns by the congregation, the afternoon devotion was given by Rev. Charles Craddock. Using 2 Peter 1:1-10 as his Scripture, he gave us a great lesson on "Developing in the Christian Grace."

Rev. A. C. Tolar volunteered to bring the evening message.

The call for church letters was renewed with one received.

Pleasant Ridge: Sidney Tindell, Elmer Monday, Ernest Granger, Peggy West.

The letter was received and delegates were seated in the body.

Call for petitionary letters, none received.

By motion officers of the 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 Edna Cook, re-elected Clerk; Mr. A. C. Womack, re-elected Treasurer.

Called for correspondence from sister associations. The following were present:

Liberty Association: Rev. and Mrs. C. A. Huckaby and Mrs. I. T. Baxter. By motion they were seated in the body.

The Moderator appointed delegates to sister associations as follows:

Liberty Association: Mrs. Ulas Granger, Mrs. James Calloway, Ralph Bell, Mrs. Ernest Granger, M. H. Taylor.

Midway: Rev. G. W. Nobles, E. S. Jones.

Salem: George Nobles, G. H. Jordan, Sidney Tindell.

The Moderator appointed the following committees:

Nominations: Ralph Bell, Emma White, Nina Jones.

Home Missions: Faye Paramore, Donia Calloway, Wyatt Edmunson.

Auxiliaries: E. W. Granger, E. T. Ingram, Maggie Adams.

Education: Madison Taylor, Thurman Drinkwater, A. J. Smith.

Suggestions: Nell Rose Paramore, A. C. Womack, Lloyd Bottoms.

Temperance: Peggy West, Georgia Trawick, Mrs. M. H. Taylor.

Obituaries: Annie Drinkwater, Eleanor Dykes, Eunice Jones.

Divine Service: David Rabon, Leona Granger, M. F. Smith.

State of Churches and Character of Ministers: Ulas Granger, Lendon Hamrick, Miller Jones.

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

By motion a rising vote of thanks was given to Corinth Church for the fine hospitality shown.

Song by the congregation.

By motion we adjourned the association until 9:30 a. m., Friday, at Magnolia Church.

Dismissed by Rev. C. A. Huckaby.

FRIDAY MORNING SESSION

The association reassembled at 9:30 a. m. at Magnolia Church, with the body being called to order by the Moderator, Rev. G. H. Jordan.

After singing by the congregation and prayer by Rev. G. W. Nobles, the Moderator read as the morning lesson a portion of 4th chapter of 1 Timothy, commenting on "Substituting Money Value for Spiritual Value."

Prayer was offered by Rev. K. V. Shutes.

Renewed call for church letters with two received.

Howard's Grove: Nina Mae Jones, Maggie Adams, Othel Jordan, A. C. Womack, Eunice Jones, Henry Jordan, Miller Jones.

Shiloh: Wyatt Edmunson, A. J. Smith.

By motion their letters were accepted and delegates seated in the body.

By motion the roll was called by the Clerk, and the Moderator read the Decorum.

Renewed call for correspondence from sister association.

Midway Association: Rev. K. V. Shutes.

Renewed call for church letters with one received.

Grangerburg: Lewis Granger, J. D. West, Mrs. J. D. West, Mrs. Lewis Granger.

By motion the letter was received and delegates were seated in the body.

Bro. E. T. Ingram gave us a current report on our Free Will Baptist Children's Home in Eldridge, Alabama, where he has been employed for the past two years.

By motion a free will offering was taken for our Children's Home at Eldridge, which amounted to \$53.83.

By motion we recessed for five minutes before preaching services with prayer by Bro. J. L. Tedder.

After singing by the congregation, Rev. Charles B. Craddock brought the morning message. Using 1 Corinthians, 13th chapter, as his text, he gave us a soul stirring message on "The Greatest of all Christian Graces, LOVE."

We were dismissed for the noon hour by Rev. John Barnes.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

After song service by the congregation, the afternoon devotion was given by Rev. K. V. Shutes. His short message was taken from 2 Timothy, 4th chapter, and was a challenge to both minister and layman to "Preach the Word."

The Assistant Moderator, Rev. G. W. Nobles, was appointed by the Moderator to take charge of the afternoon business session.

Called for report of 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 of Obituaries was read and adopted.

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

Report on Nominations was read and adopted.

Report of Finance was read and adopted.

Report of Treasurer was read and adopted.

The Executive Committee gave an oral report pertaining to the study of a different time for the association to convene. Their report was that the association retain the same time.

By motion the minutes of the Sunday School and League Conventions are to continue being printed in the association minutes until such time as the body sees fit to stop.

By motion the following committee: Mrs. Mary Edna Cook, Rev. G. W. Nobles, and Rev. Charles B. Craddock, was appointed for the purpose of studying, purposing, and having printed new church letters for use beginning with the next session of the association.

By motion the association went on record as supporting our National Program through the Co-operative Plan.

By motion we are to send \$75.00 to the Free Will Baptist Children's Home in Eldridge, Alabama.

By motion each church is to work with its neighboring church or churches and work out some definite plan for having a study course on Sunday school work.

Motion made to retain the same Executive Board.

Motion made to retain the same Home Mission Board.

By motion a rising vote of thanks was given Magnolia Church for the hospitality shown the association.

Motion made to adjourn with benediction by Rev. A. C. Tolar.

Rev. G. H. Jordan, Moderator

Mrs. Mary Edna Cook, Clerk

Report of Committees

COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS

We, your Committee on Nominations, nominate Pleasant Ridge Church to entertain the association the first day in 1955, and Grangerburg Church the second day.

We nominate Rev. Walter Eldridge of Cottondale, Fla., to bring the introductory sermon and Rev. Coy Watson to bring the second day message.

Mrs. Nina Mae Jones

Mrs. Emma White

Ralph L. Bell

DIVINE SERVICE COMMITTEE

We, your Committee on Divine Services, nominate Rev. Charles Craddock to bring the 11 o'clock message tomorrow, October 8, 1954.

Mrs. Ulas Granger
David Rabon
M. F. Smith

COMMITTEE ON AUXILIARIES

We, your Committee on Auxiliaries, make the following report:

We find that of the 16 churches represented in this association, 15 churches have Sunday schools with 796 pupils enrolled and 86 teachers; 8 churches have Free Will Baptist leagues with 299 enrolled; and 3 churches have woman's auxiliaries with 55 enrolled.

We recommend that a special effort be made by each church to have all of the auxiliaries active in your church.

E. T. Ingram
Mrs. Maggie Adams
E. W. Granger

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

We, your Committee on Education, make the following report:

For the lack of Christian teaching in the schools and homes, we need more Christian teaching in the church.

We recommend to our Christian parents that we teach our children to study the Bible in preference to comic books and magazines.

We recommend that the body of our association work out some plan of training courses through which we can have better qualified Sunday school teachers.

M. H. Taylor
Thurman Drinkwater
A. J. Smith

SUGGESTIONS COMMITTEE

We, your Committee on Suggestions, submit the following report:

First, we suggest that we put God first in our everyday life.

Second, we feel that the Suggestions Committee last year made a wonderful report and it was almost completely overlooked. We suggest that these suggestions be used or not be adopted.

Third, we suggest that each pastor or church clerk read the Church Decorum and Articles of Faith at least once a year to the church members and especially to all new members.

We suggest that we call on God to help us in all our undertakings and to realize that without his help we would fail.

We suggest that each church appoint a committee to work with the membership to arouse interest in behalf of the needs of the Children's Home, The

Bible College, Foreign Missions, Home Missions, and Superannuation.

A. C. Womack
Lloyd Bottoms
Nell Rose Paramore

HOME MISSIONS COMMITTEE

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

We urge our ministers to endeavor to get the people to see the need of missions, and to be more liberal in helping where help is needed. The field is white unto harvest and God is depending on us, as a church and denomination, to carry out his command; to labor in His vineyard and make sacrifices of time, material things, and any other thing that would be pleasing to Him.

We should realize that our Children's Home is a Home Mission goal for all the churches in the State Line Association and that we should support same.

Mrs. James Calloway
Mrs. Faye Paramore
Wyatt Edmunson

TEMPERANCE COMMITTEE

We, your Committee on Temperance, wish to submit the following:

Temperance means moderation not only in drinking, but in eating, dressing, and in all of our daily living.

Our Bible teaches us in Ephesians 5:18, "And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit." Also in Galatians 5:22, 23, "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law."

As our temperance prayer, we give you a portrait by James J. Metcalfe:

"Help me O God to do your will in all that I undertake,
That every deed of mine may be for beloved sake.
That I may spread your gospel to the corners of the earth,
If only by example for whatever it is worth.

"Help me, O God, to sin no more in any shape or form,
But always to adore you with a loving heart and warm;
From this day forth I want to serve, and strive to make amends
For every wrong I may have done to strangers or to friends.

"Give me your grace and light the way to your eternity,
And if I stumble and I fall, be merciful to me."

Mrs. Peggy West
Mrs. Juanita Taylor
Mrs. Georgia Trawick

STATE OF CHURCHES AND CHARACTER OF MINISTERS COMMITTEE

We, your Committee on State of Churches and Character of Ministers, are happy to report a gradual improvement in most of the churches of our association.

We are equally as well pleased with the high type Christian pastors who are leading the work in these various churches.

Ulas Granger
Lendon Hamrick
Millard Jones

OBITUARIES COMMITTEE

We, your Committee on Obituaries, find from the various church letters that there has been 20 deaths during the past associational year, namely: Mrs. Evie Hilson, J. D. Sowell, D. A. Wood, Myers Anglin, W. H. Hopkins, Carson Benefield, John Dickerson, A. Fowler, Emma Enfinger, Babe Herring, Bunion Etheridge, Jim Livingston, Mrs. John Myers, Irvin Temples, Ida Cherry, Roy Cherry, A. L. Williams, Ella Conner, Nora Frith, Mary Frances Rhodes.

Eleanor Dykes
Eunice Jones
Annie Drinkwater

FINANCE COMMITTEE

We, your Committee on Finance, report a total of \$240.70 received for associational purposes.

E. S. Jones
Ralph L. Bell
Lewis Mallory

TREASURER'S REPORT

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

Receipts

Received from churches\$229.80

Free will offering received for Children's Home 75.00

Total receipts 304.80

\$449.20

Disbursements

G. H. Jordan (Moderator's salary)\$ 10.00

D. W. Poole (Treasurer's salary) 10.00

Mary E. Cook (Clerk's salary) 15.00

Mary E. Cook (postage 1952 minutes) 4.45

Free Will Baptist Bible College 75.00

Free Will Baptist Children's Home 75.00

Free Will Baptist Children's Home (free will offering) 75.00

Standard Printing Co. (printing 1953 minutes) 150.00

Total disbursements 414.45

Cash on hand at the beginning of 1954 session\$34.75

Respectfully submitted,

A. C. Womack, Treasurer

CHURCHES	Sunday School Superintendents and Post Offices	No. in Sunday School	F.W.B. League Presidents and Post Offices	No. in F.W.B.L.	Woman's Auxiliary Presidents and Post Offices	No. in Woman's Auxiliary
Spring Hill	Madison Taylor, Gordon, Ala.	77	Jim Jeffcoat, Gordon, Ala.	39		
First F.W.B. of Dothan	Arthur Trawick, 1201 E. Lafayette St., Dothan, Ala.	90	Junior Ward, 752 Cottonwood Rd., Dothan, Ala.	32	Mrs. Docia Allen, Dothan, Ala., Rt. 4	12
New Harmony	Mrs. J. A. Calloway, Cottonwood, Ala.	30				
Howard's Grove	E. S. Jones, Ashford, Ala., Rt. 1	100	Donnell Adams, Ashford, Ala., Rt. 2	65	Mrs. Ruby Nobles, Cottonwood, Ala., Rt. 2	28
Pleasant Home	J. C. Hicks, Geneva, Ala.	81	Mrs. Lenora Chancey, Geneva, Ala., Rt. 1	40		
Hickory Hill						
Shiloh	A. J. Smith, Columbia, Ala.	41	Edwin Rodes, Ashford, Ala.	25		
Corinth	Lewis Mallory, Midland City, Ala.	67				
Grangerburg	B. W. West, Cottonwood, Ala.	42				
Pittman Creek	Jeff Hawthorne, Black, Ala.	94				
Springfield	Billy Rabon, Ashford, Ala.	73	John A. Brown, Ashford, Ala.	30	Mrs. Herbert Johnston, Webb, Ala.	15
Pleasant Ridge	E. W. Granger, Marianna, Fla.	23				
Union Springs	Maxwell Sims, Pansey, Ala.	43				
New Hope	Rex Stevens, Midland City, Ala.	23				
Magnolia	Cecil Paramore, Midland City, Ala.	57	Jo Ann Dykes, Midland City, Ala.	40		
Cowart's Creek	C. B. Crowley, Ashford, Ala., Rt. 1	42	J. T. Kirkland, Ashford, Ala., Rt. 1	28		

CHURCHES	Pastors	Clerks and Post Offices	Meeting Days	Inc. by Baptism	Inc. by Confession	Inc. by Letter	Inc. by Restoration	Dec. by Letter	Dec. by Expulsion	Dec. by Death	Total Membership	Associational Purposes	Paid Pastor	Value of Church Bldg.	Value of Other Church Property
Spring Hill	Ralph Bell	Elrey Cherry, Gordon, Ala.	1st & 3rd	0	2	0	0	10	0	4	279	\$10.00	\$ 601.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$1,000.00
First F.W.B. of Dothan	Charles B. Craddock	Beatrice Emfinger, P. O. Box 876, Dothan, Ala.	Full Time	1	0	3	0	1	0	3	226	40.00	1,206.95	15,000.00	5,000.00
New Harmony	G. W. Nobles	Mrs. J. A. Calloway, Cottonwood, Ala.	2nd & 4th	0	0	1	0	1	0	2	126	10.00	715.15	4,000.00	400.00
Howard's Grove	G. H. Jordan	A. C. Womack, Cottonwood, Ala., Rt. 1	2nd & 4th	14	0	1	0	1	0	2	483	50.00	625.00	12,000.00	3,000.00
Pleasant Home	L. C. Mixon	Loyd Bottoms, Hartford, Ala., Rt. 1	3rd	7	0	1	0	1	0	1	319	20.50	353.85	2,500.00	750.00
Hickory Hill	A. C. Tolar	Emma White, Center Hill, Fla.	1st	1	0	0	6	1	0	0	61	4.10	50.00	3,500.00	500.00
Shiloh	J. N. Barnes	Edwin Rodes, Ashford, Ala.	1st & 3rd	8	0	0	0	2	0	1	197	10.00	277.74	1,000.00	300.00
Corinth	Paul Mallory	S. Jackson, Midland City, Ala.	1st & 3rd	11	0	0	0	2	0	1	125	12.00	194.13	2,000.00	1,500.00
Grangerburg		Royce Askew, Gordon, Ala.	1st & 3rd	2	0	3	0	0	0	0	24	4.40	159.32	10,000.00	250.00
Pittman Creek	L. C. Mixon	Earl Sowell, Black, Ala.	1st	3	0	0	0	0	0	1	99	10.00	372.26	1,000.00	500.00
Springfield	James Pelt	Billy Rabon, Ashford, Ala., Rt. 2	2nd & 4th	9	0	2	0	3	0	0	120	10.00	430.00	3,000.00	500.00
Pleasant Ridge	G. W. Nobles	Sidney Tindell, Malone, Fla.	3rd	2	0	1	0	3	0	0	115	16.70	200.11	3,000.00	800.00
Union Springs	Coy Watson	Thurman Drinkwater, Pansey, Ala., Rt. 1	2nd	0	0	0	0	2	0	3	165	10.00	545.50	3,000.00	500.00
New Hope	Wallace Dorriety	Z. A. Ammons, Midland City, Ala., Rt. 1	4th	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	18	8.00	60.17	1,000.00	500.00
Magnolia	John Barnes	Cecil Paramore, Midland City, Ala.	2nd	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	106	10.00	125.58	3,000.00	800.00
Cowart's Creek	Coy Watson	Mrs. Ralph Bell, Ashford, Ala., Rt. 1	1st & 3rd	2	0	1	0	2	0	2	114	15.00	511.75	3,000.00	1,000.00

Minutes

Of the Cooperative League Convention

The Cooperative League Convention convened with Springhill Free Will Baptist Church of Gordon, Alabama, on May 30, 1954. Approximately 200 delegates, leaguers, and visitors registered during the day.

The president, Mrs. Mary Edna Cook, called the convention to order. The league song, "Onward Christian Leaguers," was the opening song. Junior Ward led the song service which followed.

Sara Whitaker of Springhill League gave the welcome address and John L. Womack of Howard's Grove gave the response. Mrs. Gayle Whitaker gave a short devotional which was followed by a report on the 1953 State League Convention by Meredith Kirksey.

The convention entered into the business session. Delegates were seated and reports and dues to the convention were received. The secretary read the minutes and gave the treasurer's report.

The following officers were elected for the ensuing year: President, Mrs. Mary E. Cook; Vice-President, John D. Carr; Secretary-Treasurer, Billy Rabon.

A committee consisting of John Womack, John Carr, and Madison Taylor was appointed to get in touch with the former secretary and get the old minutes and financial reports.

Other committees appointed were:

Banner Committee: Evelyn Womack, Ralph Bell, Billy Rabon.

Convention Home: Gayle Whitaker, Junior Ward, Emma Jean Bell.

The secretary read a letter from the Children's Home in Eldridge, urging the Free Will Baptist to help pay for the new plot of land recently purchased by the home.

The convention recessed for ten minutes.

Following a song service and prayer, Rev. Durward Long brought a sermon to the youths on "Consecration."

A refreshing noon meal served at the church was enjoyed by all.

The afternoon session began by chorus singing. This period was conducted by the song leaders from the leagues represented.

Glenda Smith of the First Free Will Baptist League of Dothan, gave a short afternoon devotional. Special programs were rendered by Cowart's Creek and Springfield Leagues. During talent time various leagues were represented by special music. Mrs. Durward Long gave a very interesting report on our Cuban Mission Field.

A short business session followed. The committees' reports were received. The Banner Committee reported that Howard's Grove League was the winner of the banner with a 72% average. The Home Committee reported that Cowart's Creek League would be host to the 1955 convention.

By motion the secretary was authorized to fill out a report to the Alabama State Convention. Mrs. Nina Jones and Mrs. Ruby Nobles were appointed as delegates to the State Convention with the understanding that any others who found that they could go would also go as a delegate from this convention.

The following churches were represented by report and delegation: Springhill, First Free Will Baptist Church of Dothan, Howard's Grove, Springfield, and Cowart's Creek.

Goodwater League was represented by delegation and was accepted without report.

The League Convention adjourned with benediction by Bro. Ralph Bell of Cowart's Creek.

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1953-54

Dues collected at the Cooperative League Convention	\$25.00
State Convention dues	7.50
Balance	\$17.50
Pins for Sword Drill	2.20
Balance	\$15.30
Cost of programs for the convention	1.00
Balance	\$14.30
Dues collected at the 1954 Convention	25.00
Balance now in treasury	\$39.30

Mrs. Mary Edna Cook, President

Meredith Kirksey, Secretary-Treasurer

EXECUTIVE MEETING—MAY 2, 1954

An executive meeting was held at the First Free Will Baptist Church of Dothan, Alabama, to complete plans for the 1954 convention. The opening song was "Leaning on the Everlasting Arms." Devotional was given by the president. The theme we decided to use for the convention was "Learn What I Am." Howard's Grove Church was appointed to be responsible for someone to direct the Sword Drill. The person selected from Howard's Grove to direct this drill was given the privilege of selecting their own type and method of sword drilling.

By motion it was decided that we get a new banner with our new convention name on it, or, if possible, have the old one altered. Junior Ward was appointed to be responsible for this job.

By motion it was decided that we use our Free Will Baptist League pins as the gifts for winners of the sword drill. The secretary was authorized to get them for us. The secretary was also appointed to get the convention programs ready.

We decided to use the same blank reports for reporting to the convention. We decided to have a period on our program for presenting talent from each church. We were dismissed by the league benediction.

Minutes

Of the State Line Sunday School Convention

The Free Will Baptist State Line Sunday School Convention convened with Grangerburg Church, Sunday, August 30, 1954. The convention was opened with a song, followed with prayer by Brother Edmunson. The president asked Miss Sara Lou Scott to act as secretary until Miss Lamb came.

The devotional was given by Cowart's Creek Church Sunday School. The welcome address was given by Grangerburg School, with Pleasant Home School giving the response. A special song was given by Howard's Grove School. The president welcomed the visitors attending the convention, and also recognized the ministers present. Seven ministers were present, namely: Rev. Durwood Long, Rev. Huey Long, Rev. Jimmie Pelt, Rev. W. A. Edmunson, Rev. John Barnes, Rev. G. W. Nobles, and Rev. L. C. Mixon.

After a song by the congregation, we entered into the business session. The following officers were elected to serve for another year: president, Gordon Odom; vice-president, Ralph Bell; secretary-treasurer, Sara Lou Scott.

The following committees were appointed: Banner Committee: Junior Ward, Bill Ammons, and Mrs. Knight; Convention Home Committee: Miss Burkett, Frazier Thornton and Mr. Mixon.

The business session closed with a song and prayer by Sister West.

Brother John Barnes gave a report at this time on how the convention was started and many interesting facts concerning its growth.

A very interesting and inspiring lesson was taught on the Sunday school lesson by Mrs. Mary Edna Cook.

After a song and prayer by Brother Jones, the treasurer's report was given and adopted. The convention was dismissed for lunch.

After a very enjoyable noon hour, the convention was called back to order by the president. Devotional was given by New Hope School. Prayer was given by five small Sunday school students of Springfield Church. Programs were presented by Union Springs and Grangerburg Schools. Little Miss Patricia Odom of Shiloh School sang "Mansions Over The Hilltop." A poem was given by Springhill School followed with a song by the congregation.

We then entered into the afternoon business session. Minutes of the last convention were read and adopted with correction. A report on the State Sunday School Convention was given by Mary Edna Cook. The Alabama State Convention of 1955 will be held in Dothan, Alabama, with the First Free Will Baptist Church as host. The following delegates volunteered to represent us at the convention: Madison Taylor, Mrs. Henry Jordan, and Mr. Meadows.

Brother G. W. Nobles talked concerning having more teachers' training courses for Sunday schools. After a discussion of the subject by several others, a move was made and adopted that the president appoint a committee and that this committee meet with the State Line Association and ask their help in the matter. A move was also made and adopted that should a church have a training

course and cannot meet the expense of the course, that the Sunday School Convention pay part of it.

At this time Brother Woodham sang a special song, "The Stranger of Galilee."

Report of the Convention Home Committee was that Springfield Sunday School would be host to the 1955 Sunday School Convention. The Banner Committee reported that Cowart's Creek School won the banner for the year's best record. Thirteen Sunday schools were represented at this convention.

An offering of \$25.62 was taken for the Children's Home in Eldridge, Alabama. A move was made and adopted that the convention also send \$25.00 to the home.

Announcements were made and a rising vote of thanks was given to Grangerburg Sunday School for the hospitality given the convention.

The convention adjourned with prayer by Brother Long.

Ralph L. Bell, President

Grady Scott, Vice-President

Dorothy Lamb, Secretary-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 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 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 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 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, 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 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) Acknowledgments. (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 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 good reasons shall be cited to the conference to answer for their conduct.

22. 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.

23. No motion shall be made while a move and second is before the conference.

24. 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.

25. No member shall leave the house during conference without sufficient cause, nor engage in conversation or whispering without permission.

26. 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.

27. 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.

28. When the Moderator speaks in debate he must nominate some brother in his stead.

29. No one shall be interrupted while speaking unless it is necessary to call him to order.

30. 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.

31. Members not in good standing shall not commune, but the administration shall not be deferred on account of any ordinary matter of dealing.

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

33. 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; 46:7-15, 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. 29; 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. 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,	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, Cedar 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
1954—G. H. Jordan, Mary E. Cook, Corinth and Magnolia.....	2577