

MINUTES
OF THE
24th ANNUAL SESSION
OF THE
UNION HILL UNITED FREE WILL
BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

HELD WITH
PANTHER CREEK CHURCH

Friday and Saturday Before the
Fourth Sunday In October, 1944

OFFICERS

G. W. DARRITY, Hartford, Ala., R. F. D. 2 Moderator
LESSIE SELLERS, Slocumb, Ala., R. F. D. 2 Clerk

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Carl Smith, Chairman, Hartford, Ala.; M. A. Enfinger,
Hartford, Ala., R F. D. 2; D. O. Halley, Alford Morris, M.
A. Peters.

PROCEEDINGS

The Association met with Panther Creek Church at the appointed time. Bro. Mack Kirkland brought the message at 11:00. Reading from St. John 1 Chapter 1.

One hour for refreshments.

House was called to order by Bro. W. A. Clark. Prayer by Bro. Perry Morris.

BUSINESS SESSION

Elected Assistant Moderator, Bro. Wallace Darrity and Assistant Clerk, Lessie Sellers. Called for letters from sister churches and the following were received:

Pine Log Church—Bro. and Sister W. S. Sketoe, Bro. and Sister Bob Colvin.

Christian Home Church—Bro. and Sister G. W. Darrity, and Oma Enfinger.

New Concord Church—Bro. and Sister W. A. Clark.

Union Hill Church—Bro. Frank Sellers, Bro. Carl Smith, Bishop Bolin, Marilyn Butler.

Bethlehem Church—Bro. and Sister Perry Morris.

Bethel Church—Bro. E. H. Watson.

Antioch Church—Bro. J. W. Barfoot.

Panther Creek Church—Bro. James Waters, Sister Elvie Sellers, Sister Ruth Wells.

Same read and the delegates seated. Called for Petitionary Letters, none; Called for Corresponding Delegates from Sister Association. Visiting Brothers from Echo, Ala., from the Stateline Association, Bro. Mack Kirkland and son.

APPOINTING COMMITTEES

The Ordaining Council—G. M. Hardy, Chairman, Panama City, Fla.; W. A. Davis, Slocomb, Ala.; J. A. Pettis, Bonifay, Fla., R. P. Jones, Dothan, Ala.

Committee On Suggestions—W. A. Clark, Chairman; Bob Colvin, W. S. Sketoe.

Obituary Committee—Carl Smith, Chairman; E. H. Watson, Perry Morris.

Finance Committee—Elvie Sellers, Chairman; Sister W. A.

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Clark, Sister W. S. Sketoe.

Committee On Divine Service—J. W. Mixon, Chairman; Sister Ruth Wells, Sister Hettie Skinner.

Temperance Committee—Mack Kirkland, Chairman; W. S. Sketoe, A. N. Bonds.

Sabbath School—J. J. Waters, Chairman; O'Neal Enfinger, Sister Oma Enfinger.

Committee On Divine Service made their report. Bro. W. S. Sketoe is to preach at 8:30 in the morning and Bro. W. A. Clark at 11:00 o'clock. Closed by Mod. G. W. Dorrity. Adjourned till 9:30 o'clock Saturday morning.

SATURDAY MORNING

Association called to order. Sermon by Bro. W. S. Sketoe at 9:30 o'clock. Then a few minutes recess, after which Bro. W. A. Clark brought the message at 11:00 o'clock. One hour and a half for refreshments.

Saturday evening the House was called to order by the Moderator, ready for any business that might come before the body. The Committees made their reports and the same was received. Bro. W. S. Sketoe, J. W. Barfoot and Perry Morris were to be ordained as Preachers. They were ordained by Bros. J. A. Pettis, W. A. Clark, and Mack Kirkland.

The officers of the Association will be elected at the Association in 1945 for the session.

SUGGESTION COMMITTEE

We suggest that each church at the first of the year furnish a Budget Plan in their church for the purpose of financing their church affairs.

We suggest that each church give \$5.00 to a church in the association that has become weak to help finance when needed.

We suggest this association to organize a Minister's and a deacon's meeting to be held on each Fifth Sunday of the year 1945.

We suggest that this association has 3 days instead of 2 days to hold their session so as to have plenty of time to do their work and have a revival.

We suggest that the next union meeting, 4th Saturday in June, go to Union Hill Church two miles and one-half miles southeast of Slocomb, Bro. J. A. Pettis to preach the Introductory Sermon at 10:00 o'clock.

We suggest that Pine Log Church have the next association, 13 miles south of Geneva, the time being Friday before the 4th Sunday in October, 1945, Bro. W. S. Sketoe to preach the Introductory Sermon.

W. A. CLARK, Chairman.

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OBITUARY COMMITTEE

We, your Committee on Memorials, beg leave to make the following report: We find one at Union Hill, Sister Lillian Waters, and one from Panther Creek, Sister M.A. Peters. One from Bethlehem, Sister Dolly Whitehead. We do not grieve as those who have no hope, but that God's Will be done, not ours.

CARL SMITH, Chairman
E. H. WATSON
PERRY MORRIS

REPORT OF SUNDAY SCHOOL

We, your Committee on Sunday School, beg to make the following report: We find that some of our churches fail to have Sunday School and we, your Committee, wish to say that the Pastor of each Church insist that the church run a Sunday School in all of our churches. As this is one of the best ways to help us to know god's word.

J. J. WATERS, Chairman
O'NEAL ENFINGER
SISTER M. A. ENFINGER

REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Christian Home	\$ 5.00
New Concord	3.25
Pine Log	8.10
Panther Creek	3.25
Antiock	.75
Bethlehem	1.50
Union Holl	5.00
Bethel	
Public Collection	\$26.85
	11.66
TOTAL	\$38.51

ELVIA SELLERS, Chairman TEMPERANCE COMMITTEE

We, the Committee on Temperance, beg leave the following report: To say that we, as preachers, deacons and leaders, that we abstain from intemperance, such as strong drinks, also in our everyday life. Live in teachings with the church and the Bible, also in as much as possible use our influence in advice to others to intemperance acts, as the Bible tells us to be temperant in all things.

A. M. KIRKLAND, Chairman
W. S. SKETOE
A. N. BONDS

LIST OF ORDAINED MINISTERS

Brother G. M. Hardie, Panama City, Fla.

J. A. Pettis, Bonifay, Fla.

W. A. Davis, Slocumb, Alabama.

W. A. Clark, Black, Alabama.

R. P. Jones, Dothan, Alabama.

W. W. Tremetiner, Geneva, Alabama.

J. W. Barfoot.

W. S. Shetoe, Westville, Fla.

Perry Morris, Geneva, Alabama.

LICENTIATE MINISTERS

Brother W. L. Collins, Jacksonville, Fla.; G. W. Darrity, Hartford, Alabama.

RESOLUTION OF THANKS

We, the Delegates and visitors of the Union Hill Association, wish to thank the good people of Panther Creek Church Community, for the kind hospitality shown us during our stay with them. May God bless them till we meet again in our prayers. Done by order of the Association.

LESSIE SELLERS, Clerk.

ARTICLES OF FAITH

We believe there is but one living and true God whose name is Jehovah, the Maker and Ruler of the Universe.

2. We believe that there is one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom all things and by whom salvation is made secure.

3. We believe in the beginning God made man upright and places Him in a state of Holiness under the laws of his Maker, but by voluntary transgression of his own he fell from that Holy and happy state.

4. We believe that no man shall suffer in hell for the lack of Christ.

5. We believe that the holy scriptures are the word of God and that they are the only rule of faith and practice.

6. We believe that sinners are drawn to God the Father by the Holy Ghost through Jesus Christ His Son.

7. We believe that good workers are the fruits of faith and faith without works is dead.

8. We believe that the blessings of salvation are made free and may be obtained by all man-kind.

9. We believe that Commemoration and feet washing are the Ordinances of Christ and immersion only is baptism.

10. We believe that all Christians should unite in performing the sacred.

11. That the end of the world is approaching when Christ will descend from Heaven and raise the dead from the graves to final retribution, that a solemn separation will take place, the righteous being adjudged to everlasting happiness and the wicked to endless punishment, and this judgment will fix forever the final state of man

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in Heaven or Hell on Principles of Righteousness.

DECORUM OF THE UNION HILL FREE WILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

Article 1. This Association shall be composed of delegates and preachers from churches in good standing only and shall be called together by the Moderator of last session if present. If absent, by his assistant or someone elected by the body.

Article 2. This Association shall be opened and closed by the Moderator who shall officiate until the body is organized and new officers elected by ballot.

Article 3. The Moderator shall call the body to order and see that order is observed. Submit all motions to the body. He shall have the right of speech as any other member, but must appoint some other brother Chairman while speaking. He shall not have any right to vote, unless it be in case of a tie, then he shall cast the deciding vote.

Article 4. The delegate shall be enrolled by a Clerk as they are seated in the body and the roll shall be called each morning and all not answering to their names marked absent.

Article 5. That no delegate or Minister shall be allowed to absent himself from the body during any session without permission from the Moderator.

Article 6. That each Minister shall make a report of how many churches he is serving, if any, and what each church has paid him for his services.

Article 7. That no minister shall be considered in good standing that officiates in the rites of Matrimony where either party has been divorced except it be for fornicification.

Article 8. That no church be considered in this body that retains a minister or deacon that has more than one living wife or drinks intoxicating beverages.

Article 9. All business shall be disclosed of according to good usage. But no more shall be submitted to the body when there is a move before the house unless the first one be withdrawn by the person who made such a move and no person shall be allowed to speak more than three (3) times on the same subject and not more than ten (10) minutes each time without move and second carried by the body.

Article 10. No person shall be disturbed while speaking so long as he keeps to the point in debate only by the Moderator and then only to call him to order. Only one person shall be allowed to speak at a time and he must rise to his feet and address the Moderator and he must not use abusive language or personal reflection upon anyone.

Article 11. This Association shall have a treasurer and executive Committee to be elected annually. And no church shall be considered in this body, who shall or have retained a minister that has stepped

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aside from his obligations in any form (as in 1st Tim. 3rd Chapter) unless said minister has shown by his actions that he has repented of the former evil.

Article 12. That any minister who will voluntarily step aside must immediately turn his credentials over to the executive Committee and said executive Committee shall visit the various churches to see if they are in good standing or not and help them to retain good order.

Article 13. That no church shall retain a minister or deacon who does not rule his own house.

Article 14. That no church shall be recorded in this body who does not commune and wash feet at least once (1) a year and who does not have conference at least six (6) times a year and each church state in its associational letter as to whether this ordinance has been kept or not. And state also how much it has paid and all ministers serving churches shall preach one sermon a year on doctrine and rules of Holy living.

Article 15. Any preacher belonging to this body who sends an appointment of serving churches who fail to meet at the appointed hour shall be due acknowledgement to the congregation or church.

CHURCH DECORUM

1. The Church may choose a Pastor annually at the last Conference in Association Year, or if they prefer, it may choose a Pastor for an indefinite length of time to continue from year to year, as long as he may deem it proper to keep up the connection.

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

3. The Pastor shall be Moderator of the Church, but when the Moderator is absent or does not sit, a suitable brother shall be appointed in his place.

4. There shall be two or more deacons in the Church whose duty it shall be to superintend the collection and distribution of all contributions made by the Church for the Pastor, etc., and to distribute the bread and wine in administration of the Lord's Supper.

5. The deacons shall take notice of such members as refuse or neglect to partake of the Lord's Supper and endeavor to ascertain the cause that the same may be laid before the church in conference if necessary.

6. Some suitable member shall be appointed Clerk and it shall be his duty to do all the recording and writing pertaining to the business of the church and to preserve a file of the Minutes of the Association.

7. When a clerk is appointed, all of the books, minutes, etc., belonging to the clerk, shall be immediately delivered to him by his predecessor.

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8. When it becomes necessary, a committee of not less than three male members, well acquainted with business, shall be appointed, whose duty it shall be to give advice to brethren who apply to them relative to cases dealing, etc., with the church.

9. The church shall hold a two day's meeting embracing Saturday and the Lord's Day, following the first of which shall be the regular time of the conference.

10. It shall be the duty of every church member, male or female, to attend each conference meeting, if they can, for on that day the Pastor is expected to instruct the church in a certain manner by giving plain and pointed lessons on doctrine, discipline and the rules of holy living.

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

12. Conferences shall be opened and conducted as follows: (1) prayer, unless divine service has just been concluded and generally then. (2) Invite visiting brethren to seats. (3) Open the door for reception of members. (4) Call for absentees. (5) For acknowledgments. (6) For reference of deferred business. (7) For matters of dealing which are in order to come before the church. (8) For miscellaneous business.

13. Visiting brethren called in as help from sister churches shall be allowed to vote.

14. Any ordinary member of the Baptist Church who does not hold this church in fellowship may be received into the church without a letter when it is made apparent that this Christian character is unapproachable and that he has applied for a letter and could not obtain it because he desires to join this or some sister church. All other persons must join by letter or baptism.

15. We receive members by experience or baptism; or confession of faith, by letter or restoration.

16. When the Moderator calls for absentees the clerk shall inform the church what members have been absent from three successive conferences and the Moderator shall appoint some brother or brethren to cite each of them to the next conference.

17. 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.

18. 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

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"Will You Hear The Testimony of the Witness?"

19. The evidence in every case of dealing and acknowledgment shall be recorded in the church book.

20. Members dismissed from the church by letter who become disorderly or continue to hold their letters without good reason shall be cited to conference to answer for their conduct.

21. Expelled members shall be restored to fellowship in their petition if their walk since expulsion has convinced the church that they have seriously repented for their former evil.

22. A vote shall not be taken upon questions without a move and a second and on 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 request, may be exempted by the church from voting on either side in peculiar cases.

25. No member shall leave the house during conference without a sufficient cause, not engage in conversation or whispering without being subject to be called to order by the Moderator.

26. All discussions in conference must be conducted with calmness and good feeling. Those who speak must rise to their feet, and keep to the point in the debate.

27. No one shall speak more than three times on the same question without permission from the Moderator, nor shall the remarks of any one be unreasonably long.

28. When the Moderator speaks he must designate some brother to act in his stead.

29. No one shall be interrupted while speaking unless it is to call the speaker to order.

30. We believe it to be the duty of the church to commune, wash Saint's feet as often as the church sees fit, the expenses to be paid by the church.

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

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

TWENTY-FOURTH ASSOCIATIONAL STATISTICAL TABLE

Panther Creek Church—J. A. Pettis, Bonifay, Fla., Lessie Sellers, Clerk, Slocomb, Ala., Restored 3; Received by Baptism 13—Total 33.

Union Hill Church—J. A. Pettis, Bonifay, Fla., B. M. Bolin, Clerk, Hartford, Ala., Rt. 3—Received by Baptism 4, Died 1—Total 247.

Bethlehem Church—Perry Morris, Geneva, Ala., Clerk, Perry Morris, Geneva, Ala.; Died 1, Dismissed by Unchristian conduct, 1—Total 8.

Christian Home—J. A. Pettis, Bonifay, Fla., Fairbie Collins, Clerk, Hartford, Ala., Rt. 3, Box 77; Died 2—Total 52.

Pine Log Church—W. S. Sketoe, Westville, Fla., Millard Mixon, Westville, Fla., Rt. 1, Clerk; Received by Baptism 5, By Confession of Faith 6—Total 21.

New Concord Church—W. A. Clark, Black, Ala., Clerk, Gertrude Clark, Black, Ala., Rt. 1; Received by Baptism 6—Total 40.