

MINUTES 3  
OF THE  
Twenty-Sixth  
Annual Session

OF THE  
Union Hill Free  
Will Baptist Association  
WHICH CONVENED WITH  
UNION HILL CHURCH  
NEAR SLOCOMB, ALABAMA, ON

Friday and Saturday Before the  
Fourth Sunday in October, 1946

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PRESIDING OFFICERS:

REV. J. A. PETTIS, Bonifay, Fla., R.F.D.....Moderator  
F. W. BOLIN, Slocomb, Ala.....Clerk

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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

CARL SMITH, Hartford, Ala., Route 3  
M. A. ENFINGER — D. O. HOLLY  
A. T. MOSS — M. A. PETERS

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The Next Session Will Convene With Bethel Church,  
on Friday and Saturday Before the Fourth Sunday  
in October, 1947.

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Next Union Meeting Will Be Held With Christian  
Home Church on Saturday Before the Fourth Sunday  
in June, 1947.

## ASSOCIATIONAL LETTER

We, the \_\_\_\_\_ Free Will Baptist Church, of \_\_\_\_\_, send greetings to the Union Hill Association, convening with \_\_\_\_\_.

We are sending to represent us in your honorable body the following, whom we deem worthy of seats in your august body: \_\_\_\_\_

We had the pastoral services of Elder \_\_\_\_\_ for the past year and have called the Elder \_\_\_\_\_ for the ensuing year.

We have communed and wash the Saints feet \_\_\_\_\_ times this year.

The spiritual condition of our church is \_\_\_\_\_.

We have the following ministers holding membership with us: \_\_\_\_\_

We have \_\_\_\_\_ Sunday School. We have \_\_\_\_\_ Ladies' Aid.

We have a Prayer Meeting \_\_\_\_\_.

We have preaching services on \_\_\_\_\_ Sunday.

We hand in the statistics of our church as follows:

Members on roll last report \_\_\_\_\_ Received by Baptism \_\_\_\_\_;  
By Letter \_\_\_\_\_; By Restoration \_\_\_\_\_.

We lost membership as follows:

Died \_\_\_\_\_; Dismissed by letter \_\_\_\_\_; Expelled \_\_\_\_\_.

We have a membership as follows: Males \_\_\_\_\_; Females \_\_\_\_\_;  
Total Membership \_\_\_\_\_.

We have paid our pastor \$\_\_\_\_\_. We paid for evangelistic services \$\_\_\_\_\_. We paid to miscellaneous expenses, etc., \$\_\_\_\_\_.

We sent for Foreign Missions \$\_\_\_\_\_. We sent for Home Missions \$\_\_\_\_\_; Superannuation \$\_\_\_\_\_; Unified Program \$\_\_\_\_\_;  
For any expenditures not listed above \$\_\_\_\_\_.

The value of our church property is \$\_\_\_\_\_.

We now have on hand the balance of \$\_\_\_\_\_.

We are sending to this session for the Association purposes the sum of \$\_\_\_\_\_.

This letter ordered in conference this the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ Elder or Bro. \_\_\_\_\_ Moderator and adopted as read on the \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_, Clerk.

## ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Introductory.
2. Moderator calls the body to order.
3. Call for corresponding letters and enroll delegates.
4. Appointing Committees on Divine Service.
5. Call for Petitionary Letters.
6. Call for Corresponding Letters from Sister Associations.
7. Call for election of new officers.
8. Appointment of Committees.
9. Appoint delegates to Sister Associations.
10. Call for report of Committees.
11. Miscellaneous Business.
12. Adjournment.

The twenty-sixth annual session of the Union Hill Association of Free Will Baptists met according to appointed time on Friday, 11 a. m., 1946.

The introductory sermon was brought by Rev. Rufus Hyman from the 8th verse of the first chapter of the Acts of the Apostles, "But ye shall receive power after the Holy Ghost is come upon you; and ye shall be witnesses unto Me both in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and in Samaria and unto the uttermost parts of the earth." The speaker stressed how each of us should be witness for Christ, beginning at home and going even unto the ends of the earth.

12:00 - 1:30—Noon hour.

### **FRIDAY AFTERNOON SESSION**

The house was called to order by the moderator after singing and prayer.

The moderator called for letters from the churches and the following churches were represented with their messengers:

**New Concord Church;**

Marion Monk and Wife.

**Pine Log Church;**

M. T. Hobbs.

**Bethel Church;**

Homer Watson and Mrs. Watson, Daniel Creel and Wilbur Watson and Wife.

**Panther Creek Church;**

James Waters, Willie Waters, Dick Wells, and Lessie Sellers.

**Union Hill Church;**

J. R. Bolin, Mrs. Irene Morris, D. O. Holley, Mrs. D. O. Holley, H. F. Farmer and F. W. Bolin.

Then there was a call for petitionary letters. None received, called for correspondence from sister associations and the following delegates and visitors were seated: Rev. and Mrs. Rufus Hyman, Salem Association; Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Cook and Rev. Martie Mears, Liberty Association.

Moved and carried to elect Moderator and Clerk and the following were elected:

Rev. J. A. PETTIS, Moderator.

Rev. R. P. JONES, Asst. Moderator.

Brother F. W. BOLIN, Clerk.



The following Committees were appointed:  
**Devine Service—**

Homer Watson, Carl Smith and Mrs. Alma Bolin.

**Suggestions—**

Rev. Rufus Hyman, Rev. W. S. Sketoe, Brother A. T. Moss.

**Sunday School—** Sisters Vera Bolin, Lessie Sellers and Irene Morris.

**Finance—**

J. R. Bolin, James Waters and M. L. Hobbs.

**Temperance—**

Rev. R. P. Jones, Brothers D. O. Holley and M. L. Monk.

**Obituary—**

Sister Alma Sellers, Ruth Wells and D. O. Holley.

**Education—**

Rev Rufus Hyman, Brothers H. F. Farmer and A. B. Cook.

**Resolutions—**

Mrs. Rufus Hyman, Ella Mae Watson, and Willie Mae Waters.

Motion to have report on Divine Service Committee. The committee reported that brother Sketoe would preach at 3 p. m., brother Jones at 7 p. m., and brother Pettis at 11 a. m. Saturday.

Moved to adjourn until Saturday morning at 9:00 o'clock.

### SATURDAY'S SESSION

The house was called to order by the assistant moderator. The congregation sang hymn 227, then brother Jones read the 5th Psalm after which brother Clark offered prayer.

Renewed call for corresponding letters and the following churches responded:

Antioch—brother H. G. Peacock and wife as messengers. Christian Home Church—R. Z. Clark as delegate.

Motion the above churches and their messengers be seated in this body.

Called for correspondence from sister associations. None received.

Motion that brother Sketoe be placed on the ordaining council in place of Rev. W. A. Davis who answered the call to the great beyond in 1946.

Moved and carried brother A. T. Moss be placed on the Executive Committee in place of Alford Morris.

Moved that Perry Morris be dropped from our list of ordained ministers.

Moved that the committees make their reports and the following responded. (See reports).

Suggestions, read and adopted.

Sunday School, read and adopted.

Divine Service reported that Rev. W. S. Sketoe would preach at 11 o'clock.

Motion to adjourn for 1 hour and 15 minutes for noon.

At the 11 o'clock hour brother Sketoe brought a fine message.

### SATURDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

The association was called to order by the moderator. Singing by the congregation was followed by brother Jones reading the 5th chapter of Ephesians. Prayer by Rev. Rufus Hyman.

Reports of Committees continued and the following reported and their reports were accepted: (See reports).

Obituary, Temperance, Education, Resolutions. Divine service reported that Rev. Rufus Hyman would bring the afternoon message.

Appointment of delegates to various associations.

To the Florida State Association—F. W. Bolin, J. R. Bradley.

To Liberty Association—Rev. J. W. Barefoot, W. S. Sketoe.

To Salem Association—Rev. J. W. Barefoot.

To the State Line Association—Rev. R. P. Jones.

Rev. Rufus Hyman read the constitution and bylaws of the Fla. State Association. By motion they were adopted.

Moved to have 250 minutes printed.

Moved for the next association to meet with Bethel Church on Friday before the 4th Sunday, October, 1947 and the next Union Meeting with Christian Home Church on Saturday before the 4th Sunday in June, 1947.

Moved to adjourn to meet with Bethel Church on Friday before the 4th Sunday in October, 1947.

Rev. R. P. JONES, Asst Moderator.

Brother F. W. BOLIN, Clerk.

## REPORTS

### Finance—

We your finance committee report the following:

Panther Creek .....	\$5.00
Bethel .....	5.50
Union Hill .....	10.00
Pine Log .....	5.00
Antioch .....	.50
New Concord .....	3.50
	\$29.50

Respectfully by committee.

### Education—

We your committee on education offer the followin:

First that we place good Christian literature in our homes. We recommend the family alter for every home as a place for Christian training and fellowship.

That every preacher try to get his members to take the Free Will Baptist paper, published at Ayden, N. C. for \$1.50 per year.

Second, that we ask our preachers to prepare themselves for a more spiritual ministry by studying "Great Doctrine of the Bible" for \$1.50 which can be had from the F. W. B. Press in Ayden, N. C.

Third, we ask our churches to support our colleges. Also that our preachers attend the annual Bible Conference at F. W. B. Bible College, Nashville, Tenn. in April. Our churches should help our preachers to better qualify themselves for the ministry.

—by the committee.

### Temperance—

We the committee on temperance make the following:

That we ask our preachers, deacons and leaders to abstain from intemperance, such as strong drink. Also in our daily life we live in teaching with the church and Bible. Also as much as possible use our influence in giving advice to others in regards to clean living.

—by the committee.

### Sunday School—

We find one Sunday School in the association and that is at Union Hill. We ask that every church strive to have a good Sunday School.



## Obituary—

We your obituary committee report the following:

We find that God in His love and mercy saw fit to call from our midst 5 of our brothers and sisters.

Union Hill—Rev. W. A. Davis, Sister Sallie Ward.

Bethel—Brothers J. G. Watson and W. R. Kirkland.

Antioch—Sister Dona Lewis.

That we extend our thanks to Union Hill Church and Community for their hospitality shown us while in their midst.

### LIST OF ORDAINED MINISTERS

J. A. Pettis, Bonifay, Fla.

W. A. Clark, Black, Ala.

R. P. Jones, Dothan, Ala., R. F. D.

W. S. Sketoe, Westville, Fla.

S. M. Tindel.

### LICENTIATE MINISTERS

W. L. Collins, Jacksonville, Fla.

G. W. Dorrity, Hartford, Ala.

Rece Register, Graceville, Fla.

### ARTICLES OF FAITH

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

2. We believe 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 placed 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 works are the fruit 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 mankind.

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 ordinances.

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 judgement will fix forever the final state of man in Heaven or Hell on principles of righteousness.

## **DECORUM OF THE UNION HILL FREE WILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION**

Article 1. The association shall be composed of delegates and preachers from churches in good standing only and shall be called together by the Moderator of the 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 delegates 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 fornication.

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 disposed 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 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 aside from his obligations in any form (as in 1st Timothy chapter 3) 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 recorder in this body who does not commune and wash feet 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 fails 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 members shall be appointed clerk and it shall be his duty to do all the recordings and writing pertaining to the business of the church and to preserve a file of the minutes of 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.

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 holds 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 these 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 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 of absentees. (5) For acknowledgements. (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 of 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 "Will You Hear the Testimony of the Witness?"

19. The evidence in every case of dealing and acknowledgement 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 to their conduct.

21. Expelled members shall be restored to membership 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 question 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 chairman from voting on either side in peculiar cases.

25. No member shall leave the house during conference without a sufficient cause, not engaged 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.

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

STATISTICAL TABLE OF CHURCHES, 1946														
CHURCHES	PASTORS	CLERKS and ADDRESSES	Meeting Days	Baptism	Letter	Restoration	Expelled	Dis. by Letter	Death	Female	Male	TOTAL	Paid Assoc.	Paid Pastor
Union Hill	Rufus Hyman	Bryant Hidle, Slocomb, Ala.	2nd-4th Sunday	5					2	133	95	228	10.00	536.00
Christian Home	J. A. Pettis	Fairbee Collins, Hartford, Ala., RFD	3rd Sunday									53	5.00	
Panther Creek	J. A. Pettis	Lessie Sellers, Rt. 2, Slocomb, Ala.	1st Sunday									40	5.00	
Antioch	A. B. Nelson													
Bethel	F. A. Brackin	Alma Sellers, Rt. 2, Hartford, Ala.						1	2			57	5.00	
Bethlehem	(Not Represented)													
Pine Log	J. A. Pettis	Millard Mixon, Rt. 2, Geneva, Ala.	2nd Sunday	2		1						24	5.00	121.23
New Concord	W. A. Clark	Girtude Clark, Rt. 1, Black, Ala.	4th Sunday			1						46	3.50	

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