

Minutes
of the
**Thirty-Fifth Annual Session
of the Union Hill Association
of Free Will Baptists**

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Black and Hartford, Ala.

October 20-21, 1955

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**1956 Session Will Be Held
Near Slocumb, Alabama
October 25-26, 1956**

Minutes

of the

Thirty-Fifth Annual Session of the Union Hill Association of Free Will Baptists

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Held with New Concord and Christian Home Churches near Black and Hartford, Alabama, Thursday and Friday Before the Fourth Sunday, October 20-21, 1955.

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Next Session to be Held with Union Hill and Antioch Churches, Near Slocumb, Alabama, Thursday and Friday Before the Fourth Sunday in October 25-26, 1955.

**GENERAL OFFICERS OF THE UNION HILL FREE WILL
BAPTIST ASSOCIATION FOR YEAR 1955-1956**

REV. RUFUS HYMAN, Moderator Slocomb, Ala.
REV. J. A. PETTIS, Asst. Moderator Bonifay, Fla.
MRS. BESSIE HALL, Clerk Slocomb, Ala.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

W. A. MORRIS Rt. 1, Slocomb, Ala.
J. S. ENFINGER Slocomb, Ala.
OTT TURNER Hartford, Ala.

MISSION BOARD

REV. RUFUS HYMAN Slocomb, Ala.
J. A. SEAY Rt. 2, Hartford, Ala.
REV. J. B. SMITH Slocomb, Ala.

ORDAINING COUNCIL

REV. RUFUS HYMAN Slocomb, Ala.
REV. J. A. PETTIS Bonifay, Fla.
REV. R. P. JONES Rt. 1, Slocomb, Ala.

PROCEEDINGS

Proceedings of the Thirty-Fifth Annual Session of the Union Hill Association of Free Will Baptists which met with New Concord and Christian Home churches on Thursday and Friday, before the fourth Sunday, October 20-21, 1955.

The Moderator, Rev. Rufus Hyman, conducted a short devotional period and Rev. W. A. Clark, pastor of New Concord Church, gave the address of welcome, and Brother J. A. Seay gave the response.

The ministers and deacons gave testimonies and the Moderator called Association to order and the churches presented their letters. Panther Creek and New Concord (Names of delegates elsewhere) moved and carried that letters be received and delegates be seated.

Moderator called for petitionary letters and none were received.

Then visitors and delegates were recognized and seated as follows: From the State Line Association, Rev. L. C. Mixon and Mrs. L. C. Mixon. Rev. Charles B. Craddock and J. P. Conner moved that business session be adourned for the 11:00 hour and Rev. Charles B. Craddock brought the Associational Sermon, subject: "Come and Go".

Thursday Afternoon—1:00 O'clock:

The Moderator read Psalms 134:1-4 and offered prayer.

Again call for letters from the churches and Christian Home letter was read by Mrs. Alma Bolin and the letter was read and delegates seated.

The roll of ministers and deacons called: Reverends Rufus Hyman, J. B. Smith reported. Their reports were read and accepted. (See reports)

Committee reports were called for and The Mission Board made a partial report and it was adopted. The report asked for churches to ask for our next missions conference.

Moved and seconded regular business as called for by program committee and the Decorum of the Association be read, and it was moved to call off regular business and go into the afternoon preaching hour and Rev. Lee Mixon brought a fine message.

FRIDAY'S SESSION AT CHRISTIAN HOME

The Association was opened by the Moderator. Scripture was read and prayer was offered. Scripture lesson, Matthew 15:16-17. Moved to adopt our printed program and make changes if necessary.

Letters were called for and Mrs. Alma Bolin, the reading clerk, read the letters from Antioch and Bethel and the letters were accepted and delegates seated. Following these two letters, the letter from Union Hill was read, accepted and delegates seated.

Roll of delegates was read. The following were present: Bethel—E. H. Watson and Mrs. E. H. Watson; Antioch—Mrs. Malcolm Register, Malcolm Register, Grady Peacock and Mrs. Grady Peacock, Mrs. Esther Simmons; Christian Home—Nora Pettis, O. L. Turner, Sussie Collins, Ree Turner, Fairbie Collins; Panther Creek—Bea Lewis, Vernel Hartzog, Foye Gilley, Ottis Sorrels, Gus Skinner, Mrs. Gus Skinner; New Concord—Tom Henderson, Mamie Henderson, Mrs. W. A. Clark, Gertrude Clark, Camellia Marlow, Lulov Sturde, Daisy Morrel, June Marlow; Union Hill—W. A. Morris, Mrs. W. A. Morris, Arthur Holland, Mrs. Arthur Holland, E. J. Miller.

Visitors and delegates from sister Associations registered as follows: Salem Association—Rev. W. L. Eldridge, Cottondale, Fla.

Roll was called of ministers and deacons and following reported: Revs. J. A. Pettis, W. A. Clark, W. G. Dorriety. Their reports were read and accepted. (See reports).

It was moved and carried that all preachers not having made reports to Association be given another year to get report in, and if they do not report as Article Six of Decorum calls for, their names be dropped from list of ministers.

Reports were called for and Mission Board made a report and the report was accepted. (See reports).

Business session was called off and Rev. C. A. Huckaby brought the morning message on Sunday School work. This was a great message on the art of teaching our religion.

Friday—1:30 P.M.:

We had a short devotional, singing hymn 56, and prayer by Rev. Warren Sketo, a visiting minister. Again renewed call for letters from the churches and none were received. All the churches represented but Pine Log Church.

Renewed call for ministers and deacons and Revs. W. E. Newman and Warren Sketo were present. The report of Brother Newman was accepted as read and Brother Sketo enrolled as visitor from another denomination.

Reports were called for and Union Hill Church reported on Auxiliaries and it was accepted.

Delegates appointed at this time to represent at the following: To State Line, Rev. Rufus Hyman; To Liberty, Rev. W. A. Clark and Rev. Rufus Hyman. It was voted to represent at Alabama State Association with the following: F. W. Bolin, Mrs. F. W. Bolin, W. A. Morris, Mrs. W. A. Morris, W. A. Holland, Lois Collins, Fairbee Collins.

At this time officers were elected for 1956 by secret ballot and the following were elected: Moderator, Rev. Rufus Hyman; Assistant Moderator, Rev. J. A. Pettis; Clerk, Mrs. Bessie Hall.

Moved that Moderator and Clerk prepare program for 1956 session.

Moved to omit preaching services for lack of time.

By motion, we offer thanks to New Concord and Christian Home churches for kindness shown in taking care of session for 1955.

Moved to adjourn to meet in 1956 with Union Hill and Antioch churches, Thursday and Friday, October 25-26, 1956.

Moderator, Rev. Rufus Hyman, Slocumb, Ala.

Clerk, Mrs. Bessie Hall, Slocumb, Ala.

Clerk Pro Tem, F. W. Bolin, Slocumb, Ala.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES

REPORT OF NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

We nominate Union Hill and Antioch churches for the next session of the Association. On Thursday to convene with Union Hill at 9:30 a.m., with Rev. W. A. Clark to bring the Associational message; and on Friday to convene with Antioch Church, October 25-26, 1956.

We have arranged the Union Meeting to convene every three months and the Annual Session of the Association to the 4th meeting of the year. First Union Meeting on Saturday, January 21, 1956, with Panther Creek. Rev. R. P. Jones to bring the message. The second Union Meeting to convene on Saturday, April 21, 1956, with Bethel Church, Rev. J. A. Pettis for message. The third Union Meeting to convene with New Concord Church, Rev. Rufus Hyman for the message. All the Union Meetings will begin at 10:00 a.m.

REPORT OF FINANCE COMMITTEE

We report the following:

For Associational Expenses from:

Panther Creek	\$10.00
Union Hill	12.00
Antioch	10.00
Bethel	10.00
New Concord	10.00
Christian Home	10.00
Ministers and Deacons	8.00
Slocomb Church (organized since Association on Nov. 6, 1955.	2.00
Placed in by order Moderator, Clerk and Mission Board)	
Total	\$72.00
Offering for State Association	10.81
Received for Church in Slocomb	22.00
Total	\$104.81

REPORT OF MISSION BOARD

We, your Mission Board, make the following report:

1. Report of Progress

We held a missionary conference for our Association at Panther Creek Church, March 3-6, 1955, with Revs. Damon C. Dodd and Raymond Riggs, Promotional Secretaries of the National Home and Foreign Boards, were the speakers. We had one conversion and many dedications. We received for Home and Foreign Missions \$250.00.

2. Recommendations For Progress

We plan another missionary conference beginning on Thursday morning before the fourth Sunday in February, 1956. We ask the Nominations Committee to secure a church for each day's session. This will be a four day session and to close out on Sunday afternoon with a Mission Rally. If you want to enjoy a spiritual feast, be sure to plan to attend this conference. Also a Home Missions Rally at Union Hill Church, January 15, 1956, at 2-4 p.m. (3rd Sunday) with Rev. D. C. Dodd in charge.

We also plan to open a Mission in Slocomb, Ala., beginning the 5th Sunday afternoon in October 1955. We request the entire Association to cooperate with us in this work. We also plan to open a Mission in Geneva sometime in 1956.

We further request a Home Mission Fund to be set up to assist in establishing new churches and for 10 percent of all cooperative funds

and mission funds be retained in this Association.. Also for each church to send 10 percent of their regular offerings to the Union for support of District, State and National work.

By Your Mission Board,
Rufus Hyman, Chairman; J. A. Seay, F. W. Bolin.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

We offer the following:

We recognize that Christian Education begins in the home. Every Christian father and mother should teach their children "The Way of Life", by precept and example.

The next place for Christian Education is in the Sunday School, the preaching service, League, etc., and since this is true we recommend every Christian to study to make himself a better Christian worker.

We also request each minister to study to make himself a better leader, by reading and studying good books, etc. We also recommend each minister to attend Bible school, if possible, to better prepare himself to serve and lead his people.

Also, we request our churches to support our Bible College with their gifts and prayers so we may have a good school for Christian training.

By Rufus Hyman and J. B. Smith.

REPORT OF MINISTERS

W. A. Clark—Number additions received, 6; Number Baptized, 6; Number churches served, 1; Number sermons preached, 64; Number revivals held, 2; Number churches organized, none; Number married, none; Money received, \$36.00.

W. A. Newman—Number additions received, none; Number Baptized, none; Number of churches served, none; Number sermons preached, 19; Number revivals held, none; Number churches organized, none; Number married, none; Money received, none.

Alvin Pettis—Number additions received, none; Number Baptized, none; Number churches served, none; Number sermons preached, 15; Number revivals held, none; Number churches organized, none; Number married, none; Money received \$15.00.

W. G. Dorriety—Number additions received, 1; Number Baptized, 1; Churches served, 1; Number sermons preached, 39; Number revivals held, 1; Number churches organized, none; Number married, none; Money received, \$98.16.

Rufus Hyman—Number additions received, 6; Number Baptized, 3; Number churches served, 2; Number sermons preached, 75; Number revivals

held, 6; Associations organized, 1; Number churches organized, none; Number married, 1; Money received, \$632.09.

J. B. Smith—Number additions received, 9; Number Baptized, none; Number churches served, none; Number sermons preached, 31; Number revivals held, 2; Number churches organized, none; Number married, 1; Money received, \$89.17.

Hubert Henderson—Number additions received, 20; Number Baptized, 8; Number churches served, 3; Number sermons not given; Number revivals held, none; Number churches organized, none; Number married, none; Money received, \$367.77.

REPORT ON SUGGESTIONS

We suggest the following:

1. That the Moderator and other officers be elected on the closing day of each session, to hold office on through the next session.

2. We recommend placing good literature in our homes. We recommend the family altar as a place for Christian Training, and Spiritual Development; that our people take the Free Will Baptist, a Weekly, at \$2.00 per year from the Free Will Baptist Press, Ayden, N. C. Also the "Contact", our National paper for \$1.00 per year, a Monthly paper from 3801 Richland Avenue, Nashville 5, Tenn. Also our Bible College Bulletin, free, from the College address, 3609 Richland Avenue, Nashville 5, Tenn.

3. We ask that a membership certificate card continue to be issued to all our Ministers, Pastors of our churches, and all our Deacons, by special committee on Character of Ministers and Deacons. We also request all Deacons and Ministers of our Association and those who Pastor for us be requested to attend all sessions of our Association and Union Meetings, unless providentially hindered. We ask that the Clerk be paid \$15.00 for preparing Minutes. Also \$1.00 be given by each Minister and by Deacons, to help pay general expense.

Bethel Church.

REPORT OF AUXILIARY

The Auxiliaries of the Free Will Baptist Church are as follows: Sunday School, Free Will Baptist League, Women's Auxiliary, and also G. T. A. and Y. P. A., Auxiliaries.

Which we, as Free Will Baptists, feel these are taught by the Bible, and will be of great benefit to the church and the cause of Christ throughout the world.

We find that we have in our Association Sunday Schools, five; Leagues, three; Women's Auxiliaries, none.

We feel that all our churches ought to have these Auxiliaries.

Sincerely submitted,

W. A. Morris and Wife, A. D. Holland and Wife.

MINISTERS AND DEACONS THAT REGISTERED WITH THE ASSOCIATION

Reverends: Rufus Hyman, Hubert Henderson, W. G. Dorriety, J. B. Smith, J. A. Pettis, W. A. Clark, R. P. Jones.

Deacons: F. W. Bolin, E. H. Watson, J. A. Seay, O. L. Turner, W. J. Hughes, Tom Henderson, Malcolm Register, H. F. Farmer.

OUR DEAD

From Union Hill—Sister Lizzie Bolin, Brother Cap Waters, Brother W. J. Morris, Brother J. E. Bass.

From Christian Home—Two, names not given.

New Concord—No deaths.

Panther Creek—Aunt Betty Peters.

Antioch—No deaths reported.

Bethel—One death reported, no name given.

ARTICLES OF FAITH

1. We believe there is ust 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 lack of Christ.

5. We believe that the Holy Scriptures are the Word of God and that they are the only rule offaith 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 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 that 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 any way the Association deems best.

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 move shall be submitted to the body where 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 in 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 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 recorded in this body who does not commune and wash feet at least one time 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 they 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 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 of dealing, etc., with the church.

9. The church holds a two days' 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 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 his Christian character is above reproach and that he has applied for 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 this 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 their conduct.

21. Expelled members shall be restored to membership on 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 the 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, nor 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 debate.

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

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

28. 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 saints' feet as often as the church sees fit, the expense 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 ordinance ordinary matter of dealing.

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

NAME OF CHURCH	PASTOR	CLERK & ADDRESS	Membership 1954	Increase by Baptism	Increase by Letter	Increase By Restoration	Total Increase	Loss By Death	Loss By Letter	Loss By Expulsion	Total Loss	Present Member-		Total Membership	Paid to Pastor	Paid to Evangelist	Paid to Association Expense	Paid to Co-Op. Program	Paid to Other Causes	Value of Church Property	Sunday School Membership	League Membership	Preaching Days
												Female	Male										
Antioch	Rufus Hyman	Mrs. M. Register Graceville, Fla R2	67	2		2	4	1	5		5	38	24	62	\$110.00	\$60.00	\$10.00	\$3.00	\$ 20.00	3000.00	20		1st & 3rd
Bethel	L. C. Mixon	Gladys Byrd Hartford, Ala.	68	7	1		8	1						75			10.00			2000.00			2nd
Christian Home	Trim Finch	Ree Turner Hartford, Ala.	60			1	5	2	1		1			65	286.00		10.00			3000.00			1st & 4th
Panther Creek	Hubert Henderson	Harold Elmore Dothan, Ala. Rt. 1	62	8	10	2	12	1				47	34	81	249.66	150.00	10.00		150.00	6000.00	71	91	Full Time
Pine Log	No Report																						
Union Hill	Trim Finch	H. F. Farmer Bonifay, Fla. R2	208	1	1		2	4	7		7	118	79	197	310.00		12.00		60.00	4000.00	73		2nd & 4th
Slocomb	Rufus Hyman	Rufesta Boutwell Slocomb, Ala.										6	4	10			2.00						Full Time
New Concord	W. A. Clark	Gertrude Clark Black, Ala. Rt. 1	39	6			6			8	8	22	12	34	36.00					3000.00			4th
TOTALS			437	24	12	5	32	9	13	8	21	231	153	597	\$991.66	210.00	54.00	3.00	230.00	210.00	164	91	