

**MINUTES**  
**OF THE**  
**TWENTY-THIRD ANNUAL SESSION**  
**OF THE**  
**West-Florida and South-East Alabama**  
**Liberty Free Will Baptist Association**

**HELD WITH**  
**Hinson Church, Geneva County, Alabama,**

**NOVEMBER 3rd, 4th and 6th, 1911**

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**OFFICERS**

B. F. PATE,	- - - - -	Moderator.
J. C. RETHERFORD,	- - - - -	Clerk.
G. W. OWEN,	- - - - -	Executive Committee
E. V. HUGHES	- - - - -	
W. S. SELLERS	- - - - -	
G. A. REGISTER	- - - - -	
W. C. SHEFFIELD	- - - - -	

# MINUTES

The Liberty United Freewill Baptist Association of West Florida and Southeast Alabama held its Twenty-Third Annual Session with Hinson church, Geneva County, Alabama, commencing Friday at 11 o'clock, before the first Sunday in November, 1911.

Sermon Introductory to business was delivered by Rev. A. L. Pate.

## Afternoon Session.

Following an admission of two hours for dinner, the body was called to order by the former Moderator, and after reading of the Eighth Division of the Psalms the body bowed in prayer led by W. M. Duncan.

J. C. Retherford was appointed Clerk pro tem, and the body was declared open for business.

First, letters were called for from corresponding churches and nine were received. W. R. Kirkland and G. W. Hinson were appointed to read the letters, which showed representation as follows:

Bethel Church, represented by W. R. Kirkland.

Union Hill Church, represented by J. R. Bolen and Redden Butler.

Antioch Church, represented by C. C. Hutto, J. R. Powell, G. A. Register and J. R. D. Register.

Christian Home Church, represented by B. F. Pate, N. V. Hughes and J. C. Retherford.

Beulah Church, represented by W. C. Sheffield and James Tindel.

Hinson Church, represented by D. J. Boyett, W. S. Sellers, G. W. Hinson and J. W. Creel.

Liberty Church, represented by D. A. Anderson.

Macedonia Church, represented by J. A. Skinner.

New Home Church, represented by M. L. Hall, C. M. Davis and James Smith.

St. John's Church, represented by letter only.

B. F. Pate was then elected Moderator and J. C. Retherford clerk. Next called for correspondents from sister associations.

Received from Salem J. C. Eldridge, J. T. Knight, M. C. Pippin and W. A. Harper. Moderator appointed delegates to sister associations as follows:

Salem—W. M. Duncan, A. L. Pate, C. C. Hutto, H. W. Morris and L. S. Sellers.

State Line—B. F. Pate, A. L. Pate, W. R. Kirkland, H. W. Norris and E. V. Hughes.

Southeastern—B. F. Pate.

Moderator then appointed the following committees:

On Divine Services—W. C. Sheffield, W. R. Kirkland and W. S. Sellers.

On Temperance—W. A. Harper, J. C. Eldridge, J. A. Skinner, H. W. Norris and J. T. Smith.

On Sabbath Schools—J. R. D. Register, G. B. Jenkins and James Tindel.

On Resolutions—G. B. Jenkins, D. P. Mathews and J. R. Bolin.

On Suggestions—A. L. Pate, W. M. Duncan, J. T. Knight, L. S. Sellers and M. C. Pippin.

On Obituaries—C. C. Hutto, W. M. Duncan and M. C. Pippin.

On Nominations—G. A. Register, E. V. Hughes and M. L. Hall.

On Finance—G. W. Hinson, C. N. Davis, D. A. Anderson and M. C. Pippin.

On Form of Letters and Preachers' Reports—W. M. Duncan, M. C. Pippin and J. T. Knight.

There being no other business before the body, the association adjourned until 8:30 o'clock Saturday morning, November 4th, 1911.

### Saturday Morning Session.

The body was called to order by the Moderator with song and prayer. The call for corresponding letters was renewed and two letters and two statements were received. Bearers of statement letters from Piney Grove church—G. N. Owens and J. H. Owens. From Shiloh church—A. L. Sheffield, Henry Sheffield and William Skipper. From Spring Hill church—J. I. Mears. From Panther Creek church—S. S. Williams and S. M. Tindel. Motion prevailed to hear report from J. I. Mears from Spring Hill. Report heard and also motion to seat J. H. Owens with Piney Grove delegation carried. Next heard report of committee on Suggestions, as follows:

### Report of Committee on Suggestions.

We, your Committee, beg leave to report as follows: We suggest that any member who has charges against him in his church, and who makes sufficient acknowledgements to the church and said church refuses to receive same, then any sister church shall have the right to receive said member in full connection with that church, and the church which rejected said member's acknowledgements shall be considered out of order. We further suggest that each preacher in this association shall make a full and complete report of all his work, and any minister failing to do this shall be considered as out of order. We also suggest that each church shall show on its corresponding letter the amount given their pastor. We further suggest that the 33rd Article of our Church Decorum be dropped. We suggest that this association change its time of meeting from the First Sunday in November to Friday before the Third Sunday in October. Respectfully submitted,

M. C. PIPPIN, Chairman.

Report accepted and adopted.

Motion prevailed to appoint a committee to draw up a form of Corresponding Letters and also Preacher's Report. Adjourned for preaching.

### Afternoon Session.

The body was called together at 2 o'clock by the Moderator. After prayer by Elder John Simmons, business was resumed by a renewal of the call for correspondents from sister associations. None received. Reports of committees heard as follows:

### Report of Committee on Temperance.

We, your Committee on Temperance, beg leave to submit the following report: Seeing the great evil effects of strong drink, we do earnestly beseech and pray all our brethren who indulge in dram drinking to cease this soul-destroying habit, and aid us with all their efforts to put the temptation out of the State and Nation. Solomon says that wine is a mocker and strong drink is raging, and he that is deceived thereby is not wise. Respectfully submitted,

W. A. HARPER, Chairman.

Report accepted and adopted.



### **Report of Committee on Obituaries.**

We, your Committee on Obituaries, beg leave to make the following report: We find three deaths in our association this year: Sister Joyce Weaver, Mary Caloway and Tincy Ward. We furnish the association with their obituaries. Respectfully submitted,

C. C. HUTTO, Chairman.

Report accepted and adopted.

### **Report on Nominations.**

We, your Committee on Nominations, beg leave to make the following report: We nominate Shiloh and Piney Grove churches to be voted upon as the places for the next session of the association. We also nominate Antioch and New Home churches to be voted upon to determine at which place the Union Meeting shall be held.

Respectfully submitted,

G. A. REGISTER, Chairman.

Report adopted and Shiloh church, in Washington county, Florida, was selected as the place at which the next session of the association shall be held, and Elder W. M. Duncan designated to preach the introductory sermon, D. J. Mathews as alternate. Also Antioch gets the Union Meeting, G. B. Jenkins to deliver the Introductory Sermon.

### **Report of Committee on Resolutions.**

We, your Committee on Resolutions, submit the following report: Any person not in good standing in some Christian church is not held in fellowship with the Association, nor will be allowed to preach in our churches. Also that this association empower the Union Meeting with the right to transact any business that may come before it, and which it deems proper.

Respectfully submitted,

B. B. JENKINS, Chairman.

Report accepted and adopted.

### **Report of the Committee on Sabbath Schools.**

We, your Committee on Sabbath Schools, beg leave to report as follows: We find but few Sabbath schools, if any, in our association, and we ask that each preacher and deacon impress upon the members of our churches the great importance of having a Sabbath School at each church.

if possible. Respectfully submitted,

J. R. D. REGISTER, Chairman.

Report accepted and adopted.

### Report of Committee on Finance.

We, your Committee on Finance, beg to report as follows: We find for minutes and association purposes sums from the different churches as follows:

Hinson church	\$2.00
Union Hill	1.50
St. John	.80
Liberty	.75
Beulah	1.50
Bethel	1.60
Spring Hill	1.00
St. Paul (by letter)	1.00
New Home	.75
Macedonia	1.00
Panther Creek	1.50
Piney Grove	1.00
Christian Home	1.60
Shiloh	1.00
Antioch	1.50
Public Collection	5.10

Total ..... \$23.66

Paid to Clerk ..... 7.00

Balance on hand ..... \$16.66

Respectfully submitted,

G. W. HINSON,

C. N. DAVIS,

D. A. ANDERSON,

Committee.

### Miscellaneous Business.

Motion made and carried to appoint G. W. Owens to fill the place on the executive committee vacated by Henry Broom. A. L. Pate was also elected as treasurer. Motion made and carried instructing the clerk to ascertain the cost of having 300 copies of minutes and 50 copies each of blank Corresponding Letters and Preachers' Reports printed, and to have same printed. Also ordered to pay the clerk \$7.00 for his services.

### Resolution of Thanks.

We, the preachers and delegates of Liberty Freewill Baptist Association, do hereby tender our heartfelt thanks to Hinson church and community for their tender care and hospitality shown us during our stay with them, and especially do we thank the good ladies, upon whom the greatest burden rested. May God bless them abundantly, both in spirit and in this world's goods.

No other business to come before it, the association adjourned to meet with Shiloh church, two miles south of Miller's Ferry, Washington county, Florida, on Friday before the Third Sunday in October, 1912.

B. F. PATE, Moderator;

J. C. RETHERFORD, Clerk,

Black, Ala.

Hartford, Ala.

### Order of Preaching.

Friday, at 11 o'clock, a. m., the Introductory Sermon was delivered by A. L. Pate, text 17th verse, 10th chapter 1st Corinthians. Saturday at 11 o'clock, a. m., the pulpit was filled by Elder J. T. Knight, text 2nd verse, 2nd chapter Amos. Sunday morning at 9 o'clock sermon by Elder W. A. Harper. At 11 a. m., closing sermon by Elder J. T. Knight.

### Names of Ordained Ministers.

A. L. Pate, Bonifay, Fla.; W. M. Duncan, Marianna, Fla.; J. L. Simmons, Graceville, Fla.; L. S. Sellers, Slocomb, Ala.; W. N. Dixon, West Bay, Fla.; C. J. Thomas, Georgianna, Ala.; B. B. Jenkins, Graceville, Fla.; W. A. Hardy, Graceville, Fla.; D. P. Mathews, Chipley, Fla.; J. T. Morris, Chipley, Fla.; H. W. Norris, Hartford, Ala.; H. F. Yates, Bonifay, Fla.; A. B. Nelson, Bonifay, Fla.; and S. M. Tindel, Slocomb, Ala.

### Obituaries.

In memory of Sister Tincy Ward, who was a faithful member of Piney Grove church. She departed this life January 18, 1911. She was about 32 years of age, and had been a member of the church eight years. She leaves a father and mother and a host of other relatives and friends to mourn their loss; but we hope that our loss is heaven's gain.

In memory of Sister Mary Caloway, who departed this life April 16th, 1911. She was a member of Piney Grove church, and had been for ten years, and was a faithful and consistent member. She was 86 years old. We feel that our loss is her eternal gain.

C. C. HUTTO, Chairman.

Sister Joyce Weaver departed this life March 15, 1911. She was about 32 years old. She was a member of the Freewill Baptist church at Beulah and lived a consecrated life. To know her was to love her. She leaves a loving husband and three children, a father and mother to mourn her loss. Her funeral was preached by her pastor, W. M. Duncan.

Sleep on sister, blessed sleep,  
Never more awake to weep.

—By Her Pastor, W. M. Duncan.

### ASSOCIATIONAL DECORUM:

1st. This Association shall be composed only of churches in good standing, and shall be called together by the Moderator of the last session if present.

2nd. The Association shall be opened and closed by prayer.

3rd. The moderator and clerk of the last session shall officiate until another moderator and clerk are elected.

4th. It is the duty of the Moderator to receive and submit all motions to the body, and see that order is preserved.

5th. The Moderator and Clerk shall be elected by nomination and acclamation at each session of the Association.

6th. This Association shall have a Treasurer and an executive committee to be elected every two years.

7th. Each church in this Association shall be governed by the laws of the Association.

8th. No church will be considered in good standing that retains any member or minister who is known to practice hypnotism.

9th. That no minister shall be considered in good standing that officiates in the rites of matrimony where either of parties have been divorced, except for fornication.

10th. No church shall be considered in good standing that retains a minister or deacon that has more than one living wife, or drinks intoxicating beverages.



11th. That no church shall be considered in good order that does not commune and wash feet at least one time per year, and further that each church be required to state in their corresponding letters as to whether this ordinance has been kept or not.

### CHURCH DECORUM.

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

2. When it becomes necessary a pastor may be chosen at any other 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 the Moderator of the church, but when he is absent, or does not sit as Moderator, being present, some 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 disbursement of all contributions made for pastor, etc., and to distribute the bread and wine in the administration of the Lord's Supper.

5. The deacons shall also 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 conference, if necessary.

6. 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.

7. When a Clerk is appointed, all the books, minutes, etc., belonging to the Clerk, shall immediately be 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 shall hold a two days' meeting embracing Saturday and the Lord's Day following, the first of which shall be the regular time of conference.

10. It shall be the duty of every member, male and female, to attend each conference, if they can, for on that day the pastor is expected to instruct the church in a special manner by giving plain and pointed lessons on doctrine, discipline and 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 the covenant (Article 10) shall be cited to appear in conference and answer for his conduct, but the church may be exempt members from this if necessary.

12. Conference shall be opened and conducted as follows: 1st, prayer, unless divine service has just been concluded and generally then, 2nd, invite visiting brethren to seats with us; 3rd, open the door for reception of members; 4th, call for absentees; 5th, for acknowledgements; 6th, for references or deferred business; 7th, for matters of dealing which are in order to come before the church; 8th, for miscellaneous business.

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

14. An orderly member of the Baptist church, which does not hold this church in fellowship, may be received into this church without a letter when it is made apparent that his christian character is unapproachable, and that he has applied for a letter and could not obtain it because he wanted to join this or some sister church. All other persons must join by letter or baptism.

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

16. When the Moderator calls for absentees, the clerk shall inform the church what male 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 this witness?"

19. The evidence in every case of dealing and acknowledgement shall be minuted in the church book.

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

21. Expelled members may be restored to fellowship on their petition, if their walk since expulsion has convinced the church that they have sincerely repented of their former evil.

22. A vote shall not be taken on any question without a move and 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 a second is before the conference.

24. It shall be considered disorderly for a member to absent himself from conference when an important question is to be decided; but a member upon his request may be exempted by the church from voting on their side in peculiar cases.

25. No member shall leave the house during conference without a sufficient excuse, nor engage in conversation or whispering, without being subject to be called to order by the Moderator.

26. All discussion 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 same subject without permission of the Moderator nor shall the remarks of any one be unreasonably long.

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

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

30. We believe it to be the duty of the church to communicate, wash the saints' feet as often as the church sees fit, the expenses 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 occasions.

### ARTICLES OF FAITH.

1. 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 who mare all things and by whom our salvation is made secure.

3. We believe that in the beginning God made man upright and placed him in a state of holiness under the laws of his maker, but by a 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 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 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 attainable 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 their graves to final retribution; that a solemn separation will then 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 men in heaven or hell, on principles of righteousness.

## ORDER OF BUSINESS.

1. Introductory Sermon.

2. Call for corresponding letters and enrolling names of delegates.

3. Organize by electing Moderator and Clerk.

4. Call for petitionary letters.

5. Call for correspondence from sister associations.

6. Appoint committees.

7. Appoint correspondents.

8. Reading of corresponding letters.

9. Hear reports of committees.

10. Miscellaneous business.



# STATISTICAL TABLE

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## NEXT SESSION

¶ The next session of this Association will convene with Shiloh Church, Washington County, Florida, commencing on Friday before the Third Sabbath in October, 1912.

¶ The next Union Meeting will convene with Antioch Church, Geneva County, Alabama, 6 miles north of Graceville, Fla., commencing on Friday before the Fourth Sunday in August 1912.