

Minutes

OF THE

26th Annual Session

OF THE

West-Florida and South-East Alabama
Liberty Freewill Baptist Association

Convened with

UNION HILL CHURCH

Geneva County, Alabama

October 29, & 30, and Nov. 1, 1914.



OFFICERS



A. B. Nelson,	-	-	Moderator.
W. R. Kirkland,	-	-	Clerk.
A. L. Pate,	-	-	Treasurer.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

W. A. Elmore, Chairman,	-	Chipley, Fla.
W. J. Peterson,	-	Hartford, Ala.
J. R. Borland,	-	Slocumb, Ala.
G. W. Hinson,	-	Graceville, Fla.
J. A. Johnson,	-	Duncan, Fla.

PROCEEDINGS.

Proceedings of the 26th Annual session of the West Florida and Southeast Alabama Liberty Freewill Baptist Association, which convened with Union Hill church, Geneva County; October 29th 30th and November 1st, 1914.

Friday Morning Session.

Introductory service was conducted by Rev. A. B. Nelson and the association was then dismissed until 1:30 in the afternoon.

Friday Afternoon Session.

Association called to order by B. F. Pate. Lesson and prayer by Rev. J. T. Knight.

Moderator appointed W. R. Kirkland clerk protem, and called for letters from the churches. Responses were received as follows: Christian Home, Geneva county, Alabama, represented by W. R. Kirkland and Thomas Spikes. Pilgrim's Guide, represented by Arch Smith and Thomas Lemeiux. Christian Home, Washington county, Florida, represented by letter. Panther Creek, represented by B. F. Peters and H. J. Bush. Bethel, represented by W. J. Peterson and J. G. Watson. Bulah, represented by J. E. Hall and J. O. Broom. Piney Grove, represented by J. A. Johnson and Henry Highnote. Union Hill, represented by J. R. Bolin and J. W. Butler. St. Paul, represented by J. H. Reynolds. Spring Hill, represented by J. L. Anderson and E. C. Anderson.

Hinson, represented by G. W. Hinson and O. C. Davis. New Home, represented by B. F. Jenkins and Josh Jenkins. Antioch, represented by G. W. Ussery and Bob Powell.

Body being duly organized, went into election of Moderator and Clerk, which resulted in the selection of A. B. Nelson Moderator, and W. R. Kirkland, Clerk.

Called for petitionary letters and received two: Bethlehem, Enterprise, Alabama, H. J. Batchelor and Henry Williams representatives; Poplar Head, represented by A. B. Nelson.

Called for correspondence from sister associations with responses as follows: State Line, J. T. Eubanks. Choctawhatchee, S. R. Barlar and S. A. White. Salem, W. M. Duncan and J. T. Knight. Appointed committee on Divine Services as follows: J. A. Anderson, W. A. Elmore, J. L. Anderson and Frank Jenkins. Adjourned to meet at 8:30 o'clock Saturday morning.

Saturday Morning Session.

Met pursuant to adjournment. Song by congregation. Scripture lesson by the Moderator. Prayer by I. S. Sellers. Renewed call for petitionary letters and received Macedonia, represented by J. A. Skinner and H. M. Highnote. Moderator then appointed the various committees as follows: **On Suggestions**— S. R. Barlar, I. S. Sellers, T. S. Spikes, W. M. Duncan and J. T. Knight. **On Sabbath Schools**— Thomas Lemieux, J. W. Nelson, W. A. Elmore, W. H. Norris and J. T. Morris. **On Temperance**— Wm. Norris, W. A. Hardy, J. A. Anderson, J. C. Thomas and W. J. Peterson. **On Obituar-**

ies—G. M. Hardy, J. T. Jenkins, J. L. Anderson, W. A. Davis and W. A. Godwin. **On Nominations**—T. W. Ussers, J. R. Borland and J. H. Reynolds. **On Finance**—G. W. Hinson, Josh Jenkins and W. J. Peterson. **Executive Committee**—W. A. Elmore, W. J. Peterson, J. R. Borland, G. W. Hinson and J. A. Johnson.

Saturday Afternoon Session.

Met pursuant to adjournment. Appointed correspondents to Salem: G. W. Ussery, W. A. Elmore and A. B. Nelson. To States Line: W. A. Elmore and J. L. Anderson. To the Southeastern: B. F. Pate. Next called for reports of committees, which were rendered as follows:

Report of Committee on Suggestions.

We, your committee beg leave to suggest that each of our ministers preach and practice the same doctrine.

Respectfully submitted,

J. T. Knight, Chairman.

Report of Committee on Sabbath Schools.

We, your committee, beg leave to render the following report: According to reports we find only two or three Sunday schools in this Association. We recommend that each of our churches have a Sunday school. We consider that the Sabbath school is the children's church; the Sunday school is the church at work, according to our construction of the Bible. We do humbly beg the aid and assistance of the entire Association in this great and important work.

J. W. Nelson, Chairman.

Report of Committee on Temperance.

We, your committee, beg leave to report as follows: Seeing the great evil effect of strong drink, we do earnestly beseech and pray all of our brethern 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: "Wine is a mocker, and strong drink is raging; and whoever is deceived thereby is not wise." We advise those belonging to the church of Christ not to indulge in dram drinking in any way. The Bible says no drunkard can enter the Kingdom of Heaven.

W. J. Peterson, Chairman.

Report of Committee on Obituaries.

We, your committee, beg leave to make the following report: Since we last met we have had deaths in this Association as follows: Brothers John and J. C. Retherford and sister Liza Jane Birge from Christian Home. Bro Henry Livens, St. John's church. Sisters Gabrilla Hall and Anna Simmons from Bulah. Bro. James Hadcox, Piney Grove church. Sister Siller Kirkland, Hinson church. Joner Kirkland and Resey Chestnut, Antioch church. We feel that our lose is Heaven's gain. We ask that these names appear in the minute.

Respectfully submitted,

G. M. Hardy, Chairman.

Report of Committee on Resolutions.

We, your committee, beg leave to make the following report: Any man running a pool table be forbidden the

floor to lead a music lesson in our churches.

Respectfully submitted,

E. C. Andrews, Chairman.

Report of Committee on Nominations.

We, your committee, beg leave to make the following report: We nominate Piney Grove to have the next meeting of the Association, and J. L. Simmons; to preach the introductory sermon; and we nominate Antioch to have the Union Meeting, and D. P. Mathews to preach the introductory sermon, and it shall commence at 11 o'clock on Saturday before the First Sunday in August, 1915.

Respectfully submitted,

E. W. Ussery, Chairman.

Report of Committee on Finance.

We, your committee, beg leave to make the following report: We find sent in for minutes and Association purposes \$22.65 and in treasury \$4.55 making a total of \$27.20

Respectfully submitted,

G. W. Hinson, Chairman.

After reports of Committee were heard the body adjourned until 8:30 o'clock Sunday morning, November 1st.

Sunday Morning Ssession.

Association met pursuant to adjournment. Scripture lesson by the Moderator. Called for Miscellaneous business. Moderator taken vote for the next session and Piney Grove got the Association, to commence on Friday

before the First Sunday in November, 1915, Rev. J. L. Simmons to preach the introductory sermon; and Anti-och got the Union Meeting to commence at 11 o'clock on Saturday before the First Sunday in August, 1915, D. P. Mathews to preach the introductory sermon.

Resolution of Thanks.

We, the Messengers and Delegates of this Association tender our heartfelt thanks to Union Hill church and citizens nearby for their hospitality shown us during our stay among them, and especially do we thank the good ladies upon whom the heaviest burdens fell in preparing such a bountiful spread for our sustenance, and we pray God's richest blessings upon them all.

W. R. Kirkland, Secretary.

Order to pay clerk \$7.50 for his services. Minute was read and adopted, and association adjourned to meet at place and time mentioned above.

A. L. Pate, Treasurer.

Rev. A. B. Nelson

W. R. Kirkland, Clerk.

Moderator.

Order of Preaching.

Friday, 11 o'clock, A. B. Nelson.

Friday night, Thomas Lemieux.

Saturday, 11 o'clock, W. M. Duncan.

Saturday night, J. T. Knight.

Sunday, 9 o'clock, T. E. Ross.

Sunday, 11 o'clock, A. L. Pate.

Names of Ordained Ministers.

J. L. Simmons, Slocomb, Ala. I. S. Sellers, Slocomb,

Ala. A. L. Pate, Bonifay, Fla. W. N. Dixon, Millers Ferry, Fla. C. J. Thomas, Slocomb, Ala. G. B. Jenkins, Graceville Fla. W. A. Hardy, Graceville, Fla. D. P. Mathews, Southport, Fla. J. T. Morris, Chipley, Fla. H. W. Norris, Hartford, Ala. H. F. Yates, Caryville, Fla. A. B. Nelson, Bonifay, Fla. S. M. Tindel, Slocomb, Ala. W. M. Burke, Millers Ferry, Fla. T. E. Ross, Hartford, Ala. G. M. Hardy, Newton, Ala.

Licensed Ministers.

O. C. Davis, Slocomb, Ala. Archie Smith, Southport, Fla. Thomas Lemieux, Southport, Fla.

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 correspondents from sister associations.
6. Appoint Committees.
7. Appoint Correspondents.
8. Reading of corresponding letters.
9. Hear reports of committees,
10. Miscellaneous business.

ASSOCIATIONAL DECORUM.

1. The Association shall be composed only of churches in good standing, and shall be called together by the moderator of the last session if present.
2. The Association shall be opened and closed by prayer.
3. The moderator and clerk of the last session shall officiate until another moderator and clerk are elected.
4. It is the duty of the moderator to receive and submit all motions to the body, and see that order is preserved.
5. The moderator and clerk shall be elected by nomination and acclamation at each session of the Association.
6. This Association shall have a treasurer and an executive committee to be elected every two years.
7. No church will be considered in good standing that retains any member or minister who is known to practice hypnotism.
8. That no member shall be considered in good standing that officiates in the rites of matrimony where either of parties have divorced, except for fornication.
9. 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.
10. That no church shall be considered in good order that does not commune and wash feet at least one time a 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 choose a pastor annually at last conference in Association 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 choosen at any other time, but if the choice be made at a special Conference, the time must be appionted at a monthly meeting of the church.

3. The pastor shall be 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 adminisraion of he 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 no less than three male members, well acquainted with business, shall be appointed, whose duty it shall be togive 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 as follows: First, prayer, unless divine service has just been concluded and generally then, second, invite visiting brethren to seats with us; third, open the door for reception to members; fourth, call for absentees; fifth, for acknowledgements; sixth, for references or deferred business; seventh, for matters of dealing which are in order to come before the church; eighth, for miscellaneous business.

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

14. An ordinary 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 the witness?"

19. The evidence in every case of dealing and acknowledgment 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 either 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 the same subject without permission of the moderator, nor shall their 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 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 occasions.

33. The Decorum may be altered or amended by a two-thirds vote of the members present at any two successive monthly conferences.

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 whom are all things, and by whom 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 workers are the fruits 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.



STATISTICAL TABLE

CHURCHES	CO. & STATE		PASTOR	CLERK AND THEIR P. O.		By Baptism	Confession of Faith	By Letter	Dismissed by Letter	Restored	Excluded	Died	Total Membership	Day of Meeting
Bethel	Geneva	Alabama	J. L. Simmons	W. J. Peterson	Hartford	Alabama	2	1	2		4		40	4
Christian Home	Geneva	Alabama	A. L. Pate	D. M. Hughes	Hartford	Alabama	13	3	4	1	3	3	151	2
Hinson	Geneva	Alabama	M. C. Pippin	H. S. Boyette	Slocomb	Alabama	4				1	3	78	4
Bethlehem	Coffee	Alabama	G. M. Hardy	H. J. Batchelor	Enterprise	Alabama							23	2
Union Hill	Geneva	Alabama	G. B. Jenkins	J. W. Butler	Hartford	Alabama	6	3	3				55	1
Panther Creek	Houston	Alabama	W. A. Hardy	W. H. Peters	Slocomb	Alabama	1						40	2
Antioch	Geneva	Alabama	A. L. Pate	J. R. D. Register	Graceville	Florida	11	6	3	2	2	2	100	1
Pilgrim's Guide	Bay	Florida	D. P. Mathews	M. E. Lemieux	Southport	Florida	40	17	22	12	7	4	90	1
New Home	Washington	Florida	A. B. Nelson	B. F. Jenkins	Vernon	Florida					1	2	27	2
St. Paul	Washington	Florida	W. D. Stephens	E. Clemmons	Vernon	Florida					2		23	2
Spring Hill	Holmes	Florida	G. B. Jenkins	J. L. Anderson	Bonifay	Florida	5	1	1				43	4
Macedonia	Washington	Florida	W. Pennington	H. M. Highnote	Caryville	Florida	3	1			1		25	1
Poplar Head	Washington	Florida	A. B. Nelson	N. C. Chessnut	Bonifay	Florida	2						19	4
Christian Home	Washington	Florida	J. T. Morris	G. T. Morris	Chipley	Florida	5	5	2	5	1	9	24	2
St. John	Washington	Florida	W. H. Stephens	J. H. Mears	Bonifay	Florida	11	1	9	2	2	10	128	3
Bulah	Jackson	Florida	G. B. Jenkins	L. Hall	Graceville	Florida	2				4	2	55	3
Piney Grove	Washington	Florida	J. L. Robinson	T. D. Owens	Chipley	Florida	13	1	1	1	3	9	153	4

