

MINUTES
OF THE
27th Annual Session
OF THE
**West Florida and South-East Ala.
Liberty Freewill Baptist Association**

CONVENED WITH
PINEY GROVE CHURCH
DUNCAN, FLORIDA
October 1, 2, 3rd, A. D. 1915.

OFFICERS

A. L. PATE, Moderator
A. B. NELSON Clerk

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

J. L. ANDERSON, Bonifay, Fla.
W. J. PETERSON, Hartford, Ala.
J. R. BORLAND, Slocum, Ala.
G. W. HINSON Graceville, Fla.
J. A. JOHNSON..... Duncan, Fla.

PROCEEDINGS

Of the 27th Annual Session of the Liberty Free-Will Baptist Association, Convened With Piney Grove Church, Duncan, Fla., Oct. 1-2-3, A. D. 1915

Piney Grove Church, Duncan, Fla., Oct. 1, 2 and 3, 1915.

FRIDAY MORNING

Introductory Serman by Rev. D. P. Matthews.
Adjourned for dinner.

AFTERNOON SESSION

Association called to order by former Moderator, and opened with scripture lesson, singing and prayer.

After T. D. Owens was made clerk pro tem, the Moderator called for letters from the churches.

The following churches and delegates were enrolled:

Union Hill—C. Hardie, J. D. Pate.

Pilgrims Guide—Joe Lemieux, Mitchell Lemieux.

Antioch—G. A. Register, O. C. Cooper.

St. Johns—J. A. Anderson, H. W. Mears.

Poplar Head—J. H. Chestnut, N. E. Chestnut.

Spring Hill—J. L. Anderson, Charley Pettis.

Hinson—George Ursey.

Christian Home—J. W. Ross, H. M. McCrone.

Panther Creek—elected G. C. Rogers, E. D. Peters.

St. Paul—C. C. Clemmons, Jas. Reynolds.

Piney Grove—T. D. Owens, J. A. Johnson.

Bethel—elected W. J. Peterson, J. G. Watson.

Liberty—represented by Rev. D. P. Matthews.

When house was organized A. L. Pate was chosen for Moderator and A. B. Nelson, Clerk.

Received petitionary letter from Red Hill Church for membership in this association. Church was received by giving its delegate, J. R. Barefoot, the right hand of fellowship by the Association.

Called for correspondents from sister Associations.

The following brethren were present from Salem: Revs. J. T.

Knight, J. C. Eldridge, N. E. Rudd and W. D. McKeithen, Bro. D. P. Finch. Later Revs. J. L. Robinson and J. C. Rudd came.

The Moderator appointed the following committees:

Divine Service—H. W. Mears, J. W. Johnson, A. D. Peters, C. G. Waters, G. W. Ursury.

J. L. Anderson succeeded W. A. Elmore on Executive Committee.

On Resolutions—T. D. Owens, J. C. Eldridge, W. D. McKeithen, W. N. Dixon, J. A. Anderson.

On Suggestions—N. E. Rudd, H. M. McCrone, T. Lemieux, O. C. Cooper, C. C. Clemmons.

On Finance—G. A. Register, T. D. Owens, J. M. Reynolds.

On Obituaries—J. T. Knight, J. R. Barefoot, J. W. Ross.

On Temperance—A. B. Nelson, W. D. McKeithen, D. P. Matthews, W. A. Davis.

On Sabbath Schools—W. D. McKeithen, C. W. Pettis, D. P. Matthews.

Corresponding delegates to Salem Association—D. P. Matthews, A. B. Nelson.

To State Line—W. N. Dixon.

Report of Committee on Divine Service, read and adopted.

Business Session adjourned for the day.

Preaching service at night conducted by N. E. Rudd, followed by W. N. Dixon. Text: Rom. 5:19 and 1 Cor. 15:22.

SATURDAY MORNING.

At 9 o'clock, preaching by W. C. Davis from St. Luke 14:18. Closed by Bro. T. Lemieux.

At 11 o'clock, J. C. Eldridge preached. Text: Rev. 10:17.

Congregation dismissed until 1:30 p. m.

AFTERNOON SESSION

Association called to order by Moderator.

Beulah church reported out of order. The following committee was appointed to visit Beulah and aid her in getting right, viz: W. C. Davis, G. W. Owens, G. A. Register, J. A. Anderson, H. M. McCrone.

REPORT OF TEMPERANCE COMMITTEE.

Whereas, Tobacco using in any form is a poisonous, injurious and expensive habit, we urge, as a duty we owe ourselves and children, that all Freewill Baptists try to bring up our children without this habit fastened on them.

2nd. Whereas, Our temperance brethren of Escambia County have just tried to stop the sale of strong drink in their midst and failed. And, whereas; our last legislature has just failed by a close vote to give us State-wide prohibition. And, whereas; it is reported that

the whiskey people have threatened to spend a half million dollars to defeat prohibitionist candidates to our next legislature. Therefore, be it:

Resolved, That we rise up as one man and support men who will go to our legislature and do for us what the last legislature of our sister State, Alabama, has done for that commonwealth—stop the sale of strong drink, the devil's weapon.

Touch not, taste not, handle not.

A. B. NELSON, Chairman.

Read and adopted.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON RESOLUTIONS.

1st. That this Association shall have a committee on the standing of her churches and ministers, whose duty it shall be to report to this body at each session.

2nd. That we have an Examining Council, whose duty it shall be to examine ministers as to proficiency who shall apply for ordination.

3rd. That each minister make an annual report containing number of miles traveled, sermons preached, members received and how much money received or paid out.

4th. That each church send value of church and church property, and amount paid past or during year.

5th. That the 9th Article of the Associational Decorum be changed to read as follows: "No church shall retain a minister or deacon who drinks or deals in intoxicating beverages.

T. D. OWENS, Chairman.

Read and adopted.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON OBITUARIES.

We find that God has seen fit to remove from our ranks several brothers and sisters, whose loss to us means their gain, we think. As He knows best, we submit to His will. The total number of deaths is 11.

J. T. KNIGHT, Chairman.

Report read and adopted with amendments.

List of deceased members:

Union Hill lost Bro. G. E. Blount; April 22, 1915, and Sister Callie Goodwin, August 8, 1915. Both of them were faithful members of our church.

Poplar Head lost Sister Eliza Lacey, Nov, 30, 1914; age 74 years. She was "faithful unto death."

Spring Hill, one, name unknown.

Hinson, one, name unknown.

Piney Grove, one, name not on letter.

Bethel, one, name not sent.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON SUGGESTIONS.

Our beloved brother, Rev. W. N. Burke, departed this life this

year, aged 63 years, asking in his dying testimony for some good minister to take his church which he had been serving and carry on the work for the Lord.

Essential part of the report of the Committee on Suggestions: Each church having forty members or less, shall be entitled to two delegates, and shall be entitled to one additional delegate for every twenty members exceeding forty.

W. C. DAVIS, Chairman.

Read and adopted.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON SABBATH SCHOOLS

We beg that the report of 1914 be adopted. The 1914 report: "We recommend that each church have a Sunday School. We consider it the children's church. The Sunday School is the church at work, according to our understanding of the Bible. We do humbly beg the aid of the entire association in this great and important work.

C. W. PETTIS, Chairman.

Read and adopted.

Report of Committee on Divine Service was adopted.

REPORT OF FINANCE COMMITTEE.

We report for minutes and associational purposes the following contributions by the churches:

Piney Grove.....	\$2 00
St. Paul.....	1 00
Christian Home.....	1 60
Pilgrim's Guide.....	1 00
Hinson	2 00
Poplar Head	1 00
St. Johns	1 50
Union Hill	1 00
Spring Hill	1 00
Red Hill.....	65
Panther Creek.....	1 50
Bethel	2 00
Antioch	2 00

Total from Churches.....	\$18 25
Balance in Treasurer's hands.....	2 80
Collection.....	1 35
Total.....	\$22 40

G. A. REGISTER, Chairman.

Read and adopted.

The next session of this Association was voted to hold with Christian Home Church, 4 miles south of Hartford, Ala. Introductory Sermon by W. C. Davis.

The next Union Meeting is to hold with Red Hill, one-half mile west of Miller's Ferry, Fla. Introductory sermon by N. E. Rudd.

RESOLUTION OF THANKS.

We, the messengers and delegates of this Association, tender our heartfelt thanks to the church and citizens nearby for the 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 all. Adopted from last year's minutes.

It was ordered that the clerk have \$7 50 for his services.

Business session adjourned.

Preaching Saturday night by J. L. Robinson, followed by J. C. Rudd.

Sunday at 10 a. m., Rev. J. T. Knight preached from text in Heb. 9:23.

Sunday at 11 a. m., A. L. Pate preached from II Tim,

A collection of \$10 67 was made to aid Rev. W. N. Dixon in caring for his afflicted daughter.

The Association then adjourned.

REV. A. L. PATE, Moderator.

A. B. NELSON, Clerk and Treasurer.

ORDAINED MINISTERS.

J. L. Simmons, Slocumb, Ala ; I. S. Sellars, Slocumb, Ala ; A. L. Pate, Bonifay, Fla ; W. N. Dixon, Miller's Ferry, Fla.; W. A. Hardy, Graceville, Fla.; D. P. Matthews, Southport, Fla.; H. W. Norris, Hartford, Ala.; H. F. Yates, Caryville, Fla ; A. B. Nelson, Bonifay, Fla.; T. E. Ross, Hartford, Ala.; G. M. Hardy, Newton, Ala.; O. C. Davis, Slocumb, Ala.; Thos. Lemieux, Southport, Fla.; S. M. Tindell, Slocumb, Ala.

LICENSED MINISTERS.

Alvin Pettis, Bonifay, 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 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 retain a minister or deacon who drinks or deals 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 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 moderator of 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 be immediately turned over 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 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 for 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 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 acknowledgments; 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 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 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 works 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

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