

MINUTES  
OF  
30TH ANNUAL SESSION  
OF THE  
West Florida and Southeast Alabama  
Liberty  
Freewill Baptist Association

CONVENED WITH  
ST. JOHN CHURCH, BONIFAY, FLA.  
(Holmes County)  
October 31, November 1, 2, 1918.

OFFICERS

A. L. PATE... . Moderator  
G. B. MARTIN. . . . . Clerk

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

W. A. Elmore, Chairman  
J. L. Anderson                      B. F. Pate  
J. R. Balin                      G. B. Martin

# PROCEEDINGS

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The Thirtieth Annual Session of the Liberty Free-Will Baptist Association convened with St. John Church, Bonifay, Holmes County, Florida, October 31 and November 1 and 2, A.D. 1918.

## THURSDAY MORNING, 11.00 o'clock.

Introductory sermon by Rev. A. L. Pate.  
Adjourned for refreshments.

## THURSDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

Association convened at 2.30 and called to order by former Moderator A. L. Pate, and read Scripture Lesson from 23d Psalm. Prayer by J. H. Chestnut. After electing G. B. Martin clerk pro tem. the Moderator called for corresponding letters from sister churches and the following churches and delegates were enrolled.

Spring Hill—J. T. Birge, J. H. Mears, J. B. Retherford

Poplar Head—L. W. Johnson, J. H. Chestnut.

Liberty—T. M. Hall, R. L. Simmons.

E. D. Miller, Moderator, appointed A. B. Nelson to read letters and letter from Spring Hill received and delegate seated; from Poplar Head received and delegate seated. Letter from Liberty read and church was reported out of order, and motion carried to table letter until tomorrow (Friday). The Moderator appointed Committee on Divine Service as follows: J. T. Birge, chairman, J. W. Nelson and M. G. Hall.

Adjourned until Friday morning.

## FRIDAY MORNING SESSION

Called to order at 11 o'clock. Preaching by Rev. T. B. J. Hendrix from text Rev. 3:18. Services closed by G. B. Martin. Dismissed for dinner until 1.30 p.m.



## THIRTIETH ANNUAL SESSION

### FRIDAY AFTERNOON SESSION.

Association convened at 1.30 and called to order by Rev. A. L. Pate, and Scripture Lesson from I John, III Chapter. Prayer by M. L. Hall.

Proceeded to organize by electing G. B. Martin clerk, and A. L. Pate. Moderator. The Moderator renewed the call for corresponding letters and received Hinson with G. W. Ursey, H. S. Boyett and A. M. Creel. St. John with J. A. Anderson, J. W. Nelson, M. L. Hall, J. W. Levins and G. B. Martin.

Letter from Hinson received and delegates seated. Letter from St. John received and delegates seated.

A motion carried to take up the tabled letter from Liberty and the following committee was appointed to investigate the condition of the church: T. B. J. Hendrix, P. F. Pate and J. H. Chestnut.

The Moderator then appointed committees as follows:

On Suggestions.—J. W. Nelson, J. T. Birge and G. W. Ursey.

On Resolutions.—T. B. J. Hendrix, L. W. Johnson and J. W. Levins.

On Finance.—A. M. Creel and J. B. Retherford.

On Memorials.—G. B. Martin and H. S. Boyett.

The Moderator called for report of Committee on Investigation who reported as follows:

We, your committee, deem Liberty Church out of order, on account of retaining Rev. D. P. Matthews, under an illegal transaction, by having a Moderator of another faith and order, and not at a regular monthly meeting, and time of said meeting not being set at a regular monthly meeting of the church.

T. B. J. HENDRIX, Chairman.

Report adopted, and delegates were allowed to make a statement concerning same. Motion carried that if Liberty Church would rescind this action that the delegates should be seated and this letter was received and said delegates make acknowledgement and promise to rescind said act. Motion carried that they be seated.

Report of Committee on Divine Service called for, which was as follows:

That Rev. J. H. Chestnut preach Saturday at 11 o'clock, and A. L. Pate to close

Journe until Saturday morning at 9.30 o'clock.

FREEWILL BAPTIST CONVENTION  
SATURDAY MORNING SESSION

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Association convened at 9.30 and was called to order by the Moderator, and Scriptural Lesson was read from Romans VIII. Prayer by B. F. Pate.

Motion carried to hear statement from Bro. B. F. Pate of Christian Home church. (Statement rendered.) Upon his statement Christian Home Church was received and delegates seated.

St. Paul, represented by J. W. Nelson, their pastor, by his statement, he making acknowledgement for the church for not communing and washing feet any time for this year, and motion carried to receive St. Paul.

East Pitman church asked for membership in the Association by statement from Rev. T. B. J. Hendrix. Motion carried to receive it as a member, provided they will send in their petitionary letter together with their money for minutes to the clerk this body.

Antioch, represented by statement from G. W. Ursey. The motion carried that Antioch be received provided they will send their letter and money for minutes to the clerk.

Whereas, There was a committee appointed to sell old Providence church house, which was sold for the sum of \$41.00. Motion carried to place said money in the treasury of the Association, subject to the order of the Association.

Dismissed for ten minutes.

Association convened at 11:00 o'clock.

Prayer by Rev. T. B. J. Hendrix. Scriptural Lesson from I John, Chapter III. Preaching by Rev. J. H. Chestnut. Closed by Rev. A. L. Pate.

Dismissed for dinner.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON SESSION.

Association convened at 2.00 o'clock.

Song by congregation. Prayer by Rev. A. L. Pate.

The Moderator called for report of committees as follows:

Report of Committee on Suggestions.—1st. We suggest that the 33d article of the Church Decorum be abolished. 2d. We suggest that each article in the associational decorum be strictly abided by each church, and failure to do so will be found out of order with the Association.

J. W. NELSON, Chairman.

Read and adopted.



## THIRTIETH ANNUAL SESSION

Report of Committee on Resolutions. Read and adopted  
We, your committee, beg leave to report as follows:

Resolved, 1st. That all of our ministers preach at least one sermon a year on Doctrine. 2d. That our Executive Committee be the Committee on the Standing of our Ministers.

T. B. J. HENDRIX, Chairman.

Report of Committee on Sunday Schools. Read and adopted.  
We, your committee, beg leave to report as follows:

That, as according to statistics there are more conversions and additions to the church through their Sabbath Schools than from any other source, and Whereas, our churches have not derived much profit through this valuable institution on account of their negligence and carelessness to organize and conduct the Sabbath School. Therefore, be it Resolved, by preachers, deacons and laymen, that we endeavor to organize Sabbath Schools in each of our churches. Prov. 14:23 says: "In all labor there is profit."

Respectfully submitted,

A. B. NELSON, Chairman.

Committee on Finance reported as follows:

We, your Committee on Finance report as follows: We find for minutes and Associational purposes, \$8.90, and balance in treasury of \$41.10, making a total of \$50.00

Respectfully submitted, A. M. CREEL, Chairman.

Report of Committee on Memorials as follows:

We find that God in his wisdom and love has seen fit to remove from our midst the following brothers and sisters: From St. John: Sisters Hester Hall, Ann Gipson, Mollie Gipson, Equilla Hall and Mrs. Hewett. From Spring Hill: Sisters Mattie Strickland and Annice Smith. From Hinson: Sister Mary Bumess. From Antioch: Sister Leana Kirkland. From Panther Creek: Rev. C. J. Thomas. From Liberty: One, name unknown.

We will surely miss these old soldiers of the cross, but we feel that our loss is their gain, for heaven and immortal glory. We know that all things work together for good to them that love the Lord.

Respectfully submitted,

G. B. MARTIN, Chairman.

Read and adopted.

The next session of this Association will be held with Poplar Head Church, six miles southeast of Bonifay, Florida, on Thursday before the first Sunday in November, 1919. Rev. T. E. Ross to preach the Introductory Sermon, and Rev. H. W. Norris his alternate.

## FREEWILL BAPTIST CONVENTION

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The next Union Meeting will be held with Hinson church, five miles northeast of Whitaker, Ala., on Saturday before the second Sunday in August.

G. B. Martin to preach the Introductory; A. L. Pate, his alternate.

The Moderator appointed delegates to visit sister Associations as follows: to Southeastern: Rev. T. B. J. Hendrix and B. F. Pate. To Salem: G. B. Martin and M. L. Hall. To State Line, M. L. Hall.

Motion carried that the clerk have 300 minutes printed and that the clerk be paid \$6.00 net for his services.

Motion carried to elect the old Executive Committee as follows: W. A. Evans, chairman, J. L. Anderson, J. R. Bolen, B. T. Pate, and G. B. Martin, clerk.

Bro. J. H. Chestnut and G. B. Martin were ordained thru a Presbytery, consisting of A. B. Nelson and A. L. Pate.

A collection of \$2.50 was raised to help Bro. G. B. Kirkland to care for his helpless daughter.

Upon motion and second this Association do now adjourn, to meet with Poplar Head church on Thursday before the first Sunday in November, 1919.

A. L. PATE, Moderator.

G. B. MARTIN, Clerk.

## ORDER OF PREACHING

Introductory Sermon: A. L. Pate. Text: Amos 3:3.

Friday at 11 o'clock: T. B. J. Hendrix. Text: Rev. 3:18.

Saturday at 11 o'clock: J. H. Chestnut. Text I John 4:8.

Associational Treasurer, J. F. Hinderson, Bonifay, Florida.

## ORDAINED MINISTERS

A. L. Pate, Bonifay, Fla. R1

A. B. Nelson, Bonifay, Fla. R2.

H. F. Yates, Bonifay, Fla.

G. B. Martin, Bonifay, Fla.

J. H. Chestnut, Bonifay, Fla. R2

S. M. Tindell, Slocumb, Ala.

J. L. Simmons, Slocumb, Ala. R2

H. W. Norris, Hartford, Ala.

T. E. Ross, Hartford, Ala. R5

W. A. Davis, Malvern, Ala.

G. M. Hardy, postoffice unknown

J. A. Pettis, Noma, Fla. R1

T. B. J. Hendrix, Hartford, Ala. R5

J. D. Sowell, Black, Ala. R1

J. D. Berry, Black, Ala. R1

W. W. Tremontana, Graceville, Fla.

THIRTIETH ANNUAL SESSION  
RESOLUTION OF THANKS

We, the messengers and delegates that compose the Liberty Freewill Baptist Association wish to tender our hearty and sincere thanks to Saint John church and citizens nearby, for their hospitality shown us during our stay among you, and especially do we thank the good sisters upon whom the heaviest burdens fell in preparing for us such a bountiful spread for our sustenance, and may God's richest blessings rest upon all of them, and may he ever bless them with plenteous refreshments and guide them with his holy spirit through all coming life.

Adopted by request of Moderator and delegates.

By G. B. MARTIN.



DECORUM OF THE STATE LINE ASSOCIATION.

Article 1. The Moderator, Clerk, Treasurer, Executive Committee and Home Mission Board shall be elected by ballot annually.

Art. 2. Moderator shall preside over the deliberations of the Association while in session, preserve order and submit motions and other matters. He shall have the same right to vote as any other member, and, provided the chair is occupied, the same right of speech.

Art. 3. Every motion receiving a second shall be submitted to the body unless withdrawn.

Art. 4. Only one person shall be allowed to speak at a time, and such speaker shall address the Moderator and shall not be interrupted while speaking except by the Moderator, and then only when he departs from the subject under debate. Provided, however, any brother may address the Moderator to a point of order.

Art. 5. The Clerk shall record the proceedings of the body when in session and superintend the publication of the same, and do all the other writing pertaining to the business of the Association. He shall also preserve a file of the minutes of the Association, which he shall deliver to his successor in office.

Art. 6. The Treasurer shall keep a correct account of all funds received and disbursed by him, showing balance, if any, on hand. He shall pay out money on the order of the Association or the Executive Committee.

Art. 7. The Executive Committee shall have power to execute the laws and regulations of the Association, when the Association is not in session. And to make rules for their own government, provided such rules are not repugnant to the Constitution or Decorum of the Association.

Art. 8. It shall be the duty of the Home Mission Board to work for church extension and church preservation, for which purpose they shall draw on the Executive Committee and various Churches for the necessary funds when the Association is not



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in session. The Board may make rules and regulations for their own government that are not conflictive with the Constitution or Decorum of the Association.

Art. 9. The Association shall be opened and closed with prayer.

Art. 10. The names of the delegates shall be enrolled and called as often as the Association may deem proper.

Art. 11. No Church or Minister shall be received into this Association that refuses to comply with this Decorum or the ordinances which are given us in the Gospel.

Art. 12. This Decorum may be altered or amended by a majority of the delegates present during any session.

Art. 13. 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.

Art. 14. No Church shall retain a Minister or Deacon who drinks or deals in intoxicating beverages.

Art. 15. That no Church shall be considered in good order that does not commune and wait at least two times a year and each church is required to state in their Associational letter whether this ordinance has been kept or not.

Art. 16. That any Church will be considered out of order that retains any member or minister who is known to practice hypnotism, and that each associational letter carry with it the amount paid for the support of the pastor.

## 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 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 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 Moderator, being present, some is absent, or does not sit as 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 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 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 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 for conference.

10. It shall be the duty of every member, male or 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 church 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 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. Conferences 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 a 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 unrepachable 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 or 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 acknowledgement shall be printed 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 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 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 saint's feet as often as the church see 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 an 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 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 man in heaven or hell, on principles of righteousness.



# STATISTICAL TABLE

Churches, County and State.	Pastor	Clerk and Post Office	By Baptism.	Confession of Faith	By Letter	Restored	Dismissed by Letter	Excluded	Died	Total Membership	Days of Meeting
Spring Hill, Holmes, Fla . . . .	A. L. Pate . . . . .	J. T. Birge, Bonifay, Fla . . . .	1	0	2	0	6	2	2	98	2
Poplar Head, Washington, Fla.	A. B. Nelson . . . . .	N. E. Chestnut, Bonifay, Fla.	5	4	1	1	2	0	0	59	1
Christian Home, Geneva, Ala.	T. E. Ross . . . . .	W. J. Hughes, Hartford, Ala.	9	1	3	2	4	7	2	173	2
Wrights Creek, Geneva, Ala..	J. L. Simmons . . . .	C. A. Hardy, Slocomb, Ala..	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	9	2
Union Hill, Geneva, Ala . . . .	J. L. Simmons . . . .	W. H. Tool, Slocomb, Ala . . .	7	7	0	0	0	0	0	58	1
East Pitman, Holmes, Fla . . . .	T. B. J. Hendrix . . .	Joe. Sowell, Black, Ala . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	67	..
Liberty, Washington, Fla . . . .	A. B. Nelson, . . . . .	R. A. Anderson, Vernon, Fla.	10	..	..	8	..	..	1	55	4
Hinson, Geneva, Ala . . . . .	W. A. Davis . . . . .	H. S. Boyett, Graceville, Fla.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
St. John, Holmes, Fla . . . . .	J. H. Chestnut . . . .	J. F. Henderson, Bonifay, Fla.	3	4	1	1	4	2	5	103	3
St. Paul, represented by letter	.. . . .	Clar. Clemmons, Vernon, Fla.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Bethel, represented by letter.	.. . . .	A. J. Justice, Hartford, Ala..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Piney Grove, not represented.	.. . . .	.. . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Panther Creek, not represent ed.	.. . . .	.. . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Antioch, represented by state ment	.. . . .	.. . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Beulah, not represented . . . .	.. . . .	.. . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

No Statistics given by St. Paul, Bethel, or Antioch.